

To LOVE-RU

Vol. 18

story by

SAKI HASEMI

art by

KENTARO YABUKI





Story: Saki Hasemi

Art: Kentaro Yabuki

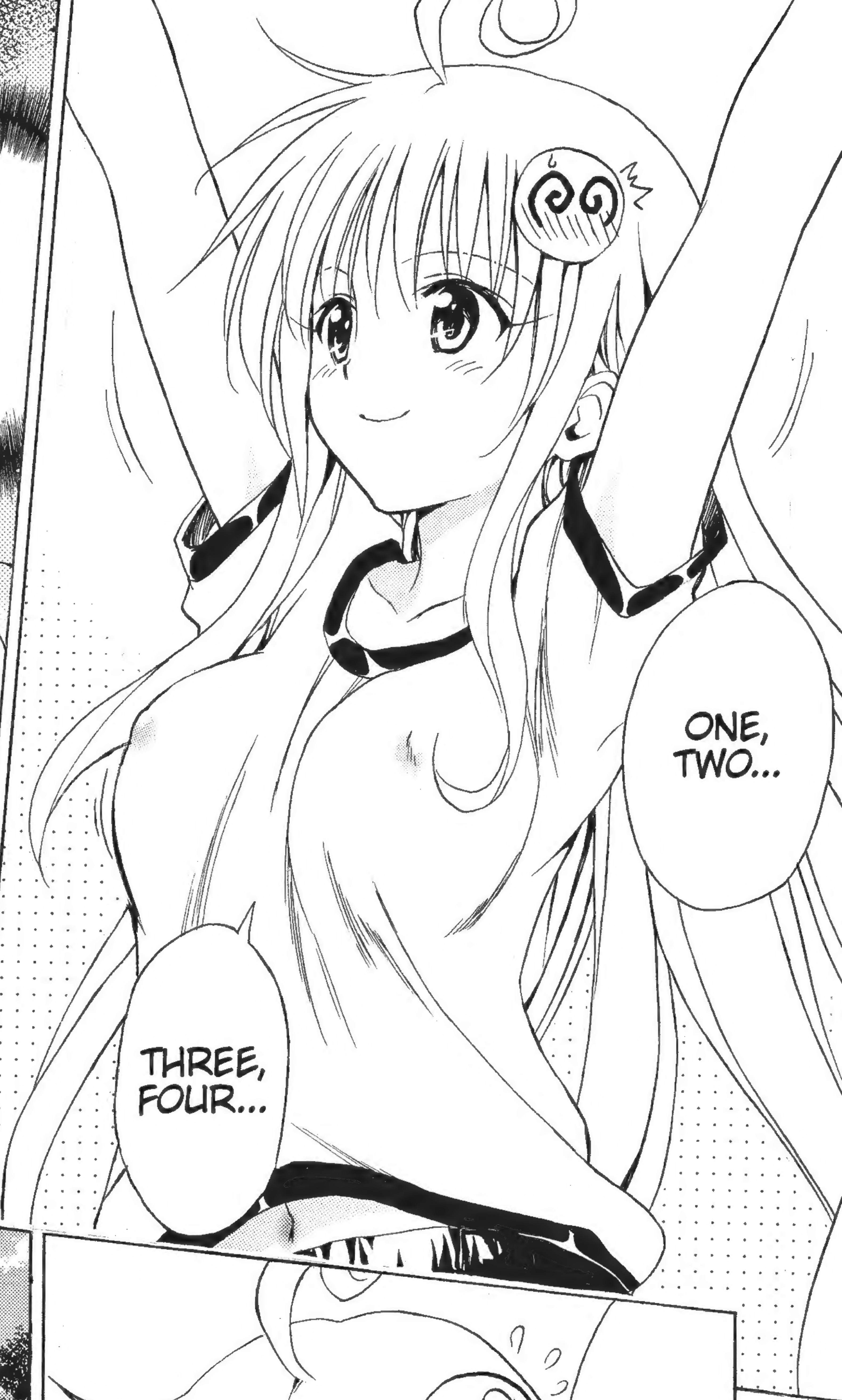


TROUBLE 153:
A NOISANCE RAMPAGE?

NOW,
LET'S
BEGIN
OUR
PRE-CLASS
WARM-
UPS!

ONE
AND
TWO...

THREE,
FOUR...



I'M
GLAD HE
WAS ABLE
TO CHANGE
INTO GYM
CLOTHING
FORM,
BUT STILL,
I'M KINDA
WORRIED...

RITO-
SAN...

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

URGH
...

WHENEVER
SHE MOVES,
SHE
RUBS UP
AGAINST THE
CLOTHES...
FEELS SO
GOOD...!

BA-DMP

HNGH!

IT'S LIKE
EVERY
PIECE OF
THE OUTFIT
IS PART OF
MY BODY...

I CAN
FEEL
HER
BODY
HEAT...



I FEEL
LIKE I'M
DOING
SOMETHING
SUPER
WRONG TO
LALA!!

B-BUT
I CAN'T
TELL HER
WHAT'S
REALLY
GOING
ON...

BA-DMP
BA-DMP



SERIOUSLY,
MOMO,
WHY DID
I HAVE
TO DO
THIS?

AS
IF I
WERE
HOLDING
IT IN
MY
HANDS!!

I CAN
SENSE
THE
SHAPE OF
LALA'S
BODY...





AND SHE WOULD TOTALLY YELL AT ME IF SHE FOUND OUT.

IT'S BECAUSE OF THE INVENTION I MESSED UP THAT YOU'RE INSIDE PEKE...



HUH ?!

I'M SORRY... I JUST DIDN'T WANT MY SISTER TO KNOW ABOUT MY MISTAKE.



I UNDER-
STAND.

I'LL TRY TO STICK IT OUT.



I CAN'T VERY WELL BRING SHAME DOWN ON HER...

I GUESS MOMO'S THE MOST PRIDEFUL OF HER SISTERS...



I... REALLY DON'T THINK SHE'D GET ANGRY OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT...

BUT ALSO, I MEAN, I WAS THE ONE WHO USED THE INVENTION WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IT WAS TO BEGIN WITH...



PHEW...

FINALLY,
SHE'S
DONE
EXERCIS-
ING.

GOT
IT!

LALA-
SAN!
WE'RE
DOING
RUNNING
LONG
JUMPS
TODAY!

WHAT
?!

SLIP...

HUH?

FWISH



GAAAAH!
I DON'T
GET HOW
TO MAKE
ADJUST-
MENTS!!



AAACK!
I'M
SO
SORRY!

SHUDDER

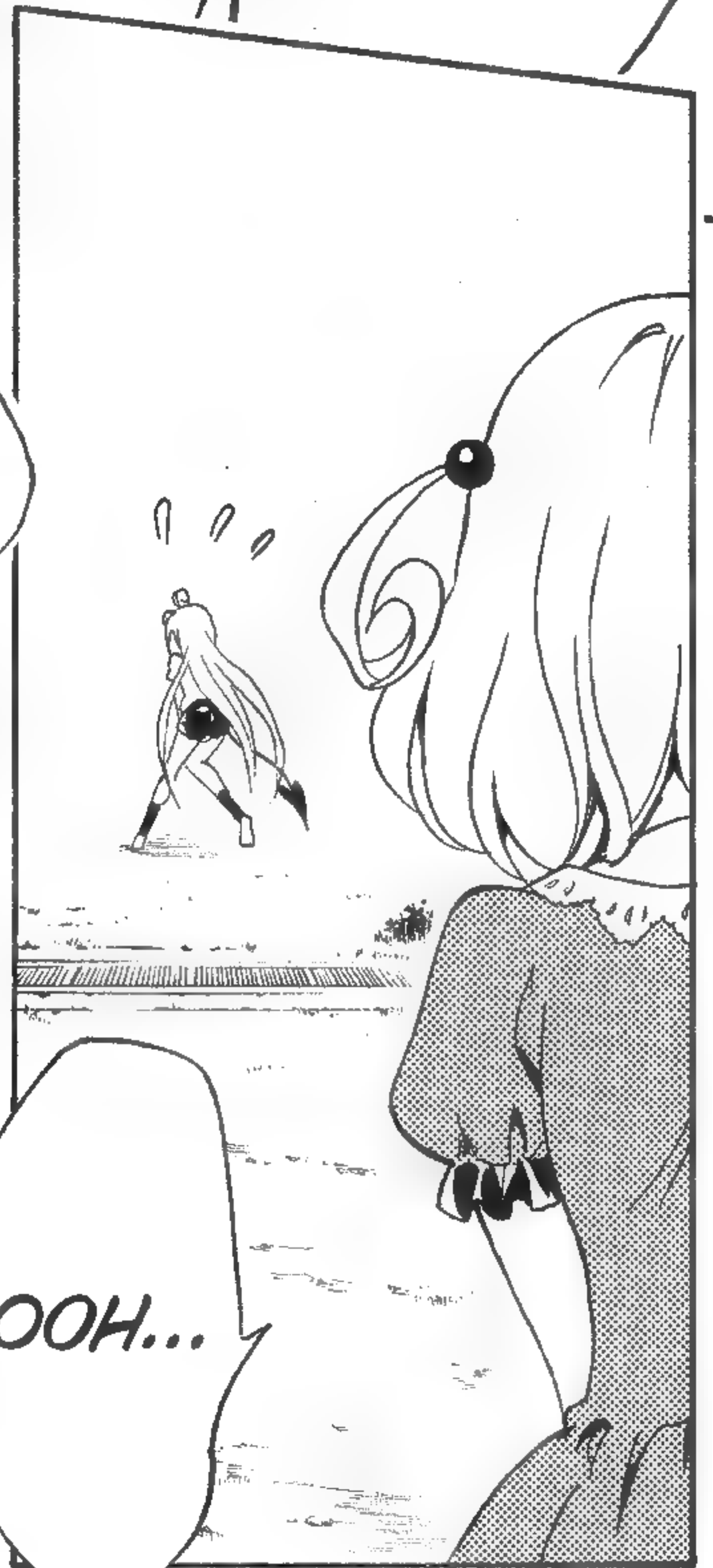
AAANGH...
P-PEKE,
IT'S
TOO
TIGHT~!

BA-DMP
BA-DMP

ABOUT
RITO-SAN
USING
PEKE-SAN
TO PRESS
SOOO
HARD
INTO
ONEESAMA'S
BODY...

I-
I KNOW
THIS
IS BAD,
BUT
WHEN I
THINK
ABOUT
IT...

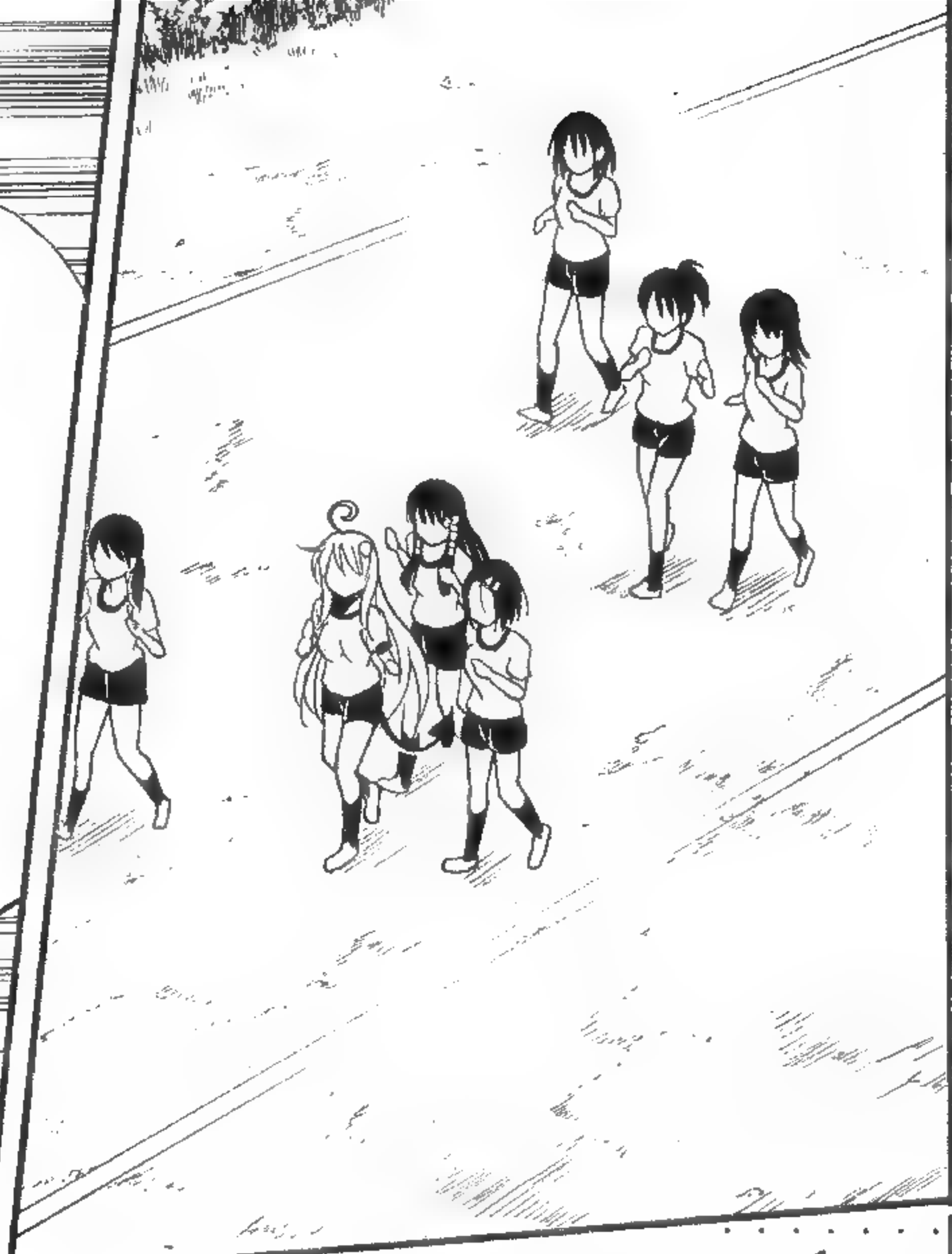
OOH...





I GUESS
SO, IT DOES
SEEM LIKE
THERE'S
SOMETHING
A LITTLE
OFF WITH
HIM
TODAY.

IS
SOME-
THING
WRONG
WITH
PEKE-
CHAN?



!!

OO

HOLY
MOLY
!!

Boing

Boing



C...
CAN'T
DO IT...
GOING
DIZZY...

MY
WHOLE
BODY'S
HEATING
UP...



IT'S A
FORCE OF
OVER-
WHELMING
DESTRUC-
TION!

THIS
ELAS-
TICITY...

Ohhh Noooo!





WHY DID YOU
SUDDENLY--

HNGH!

PEKE
?!



NGH!

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

TWEAK

SQUEEZE

AHH!

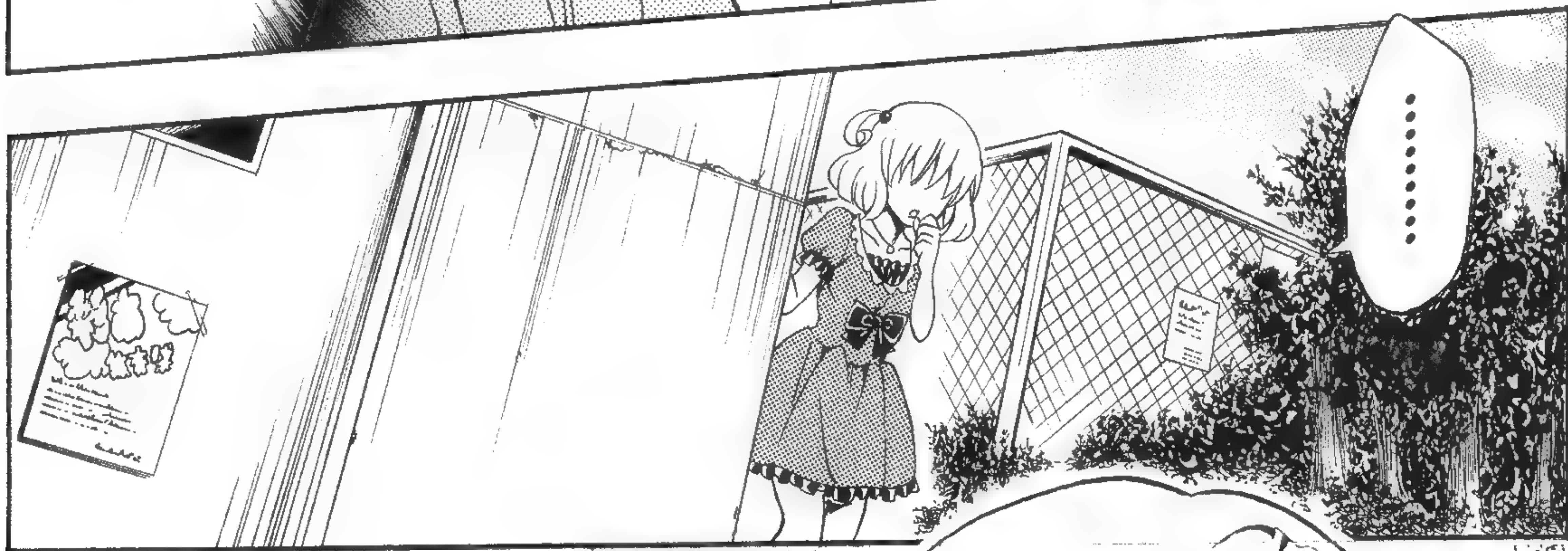


WHAT
THE
--?!

?!







WHAT
ON EARTH
ARE YOU
THREE
DOING
DRESSED
LIKE THAT
DURING
CLASS
TIME?!

LALA-
SAN
AND MU-
RASAME-
SAN...
AND EVEN
YOU,
SAIRENJI-
SAN!

HUH
...?

FA-FWP-FWP

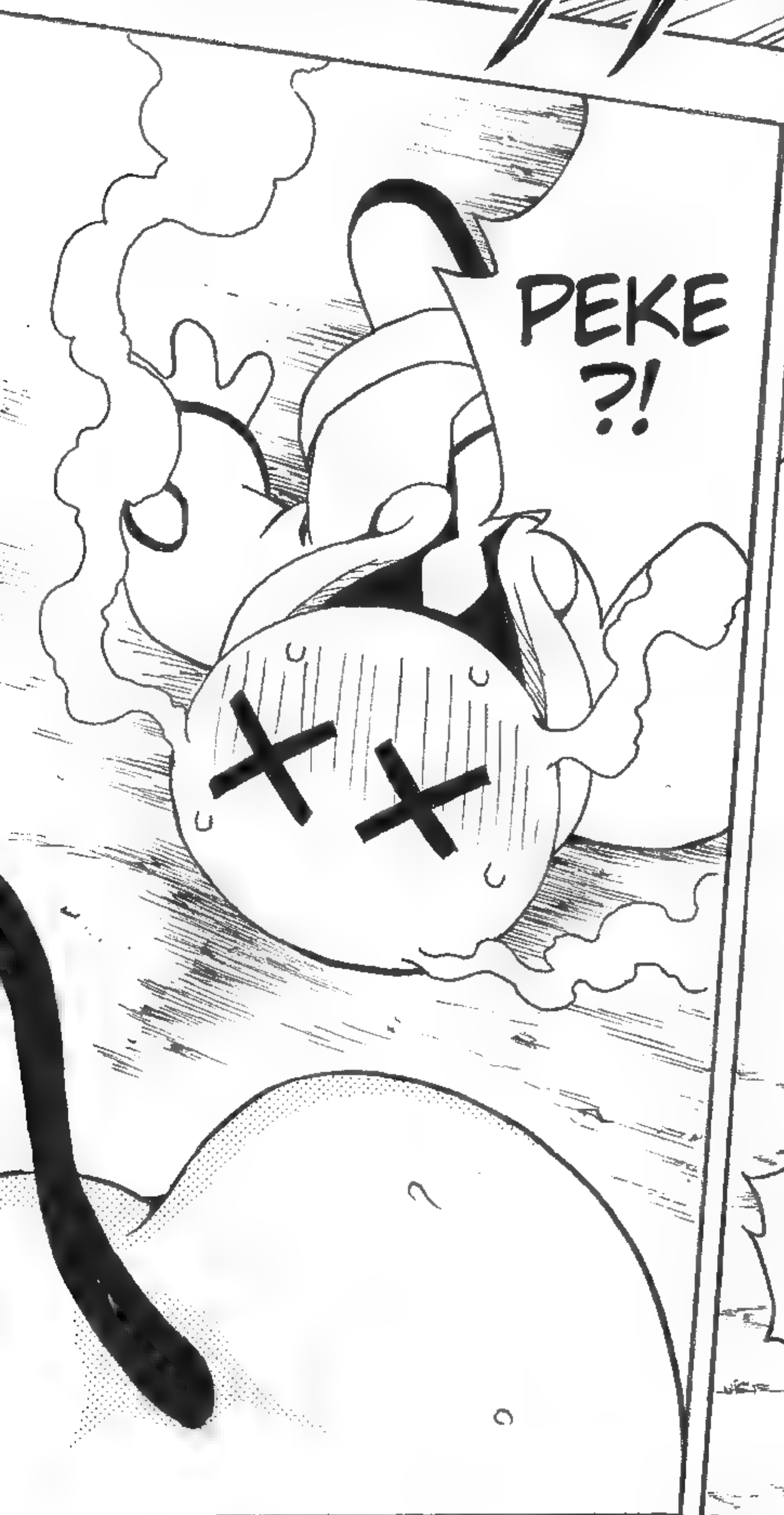
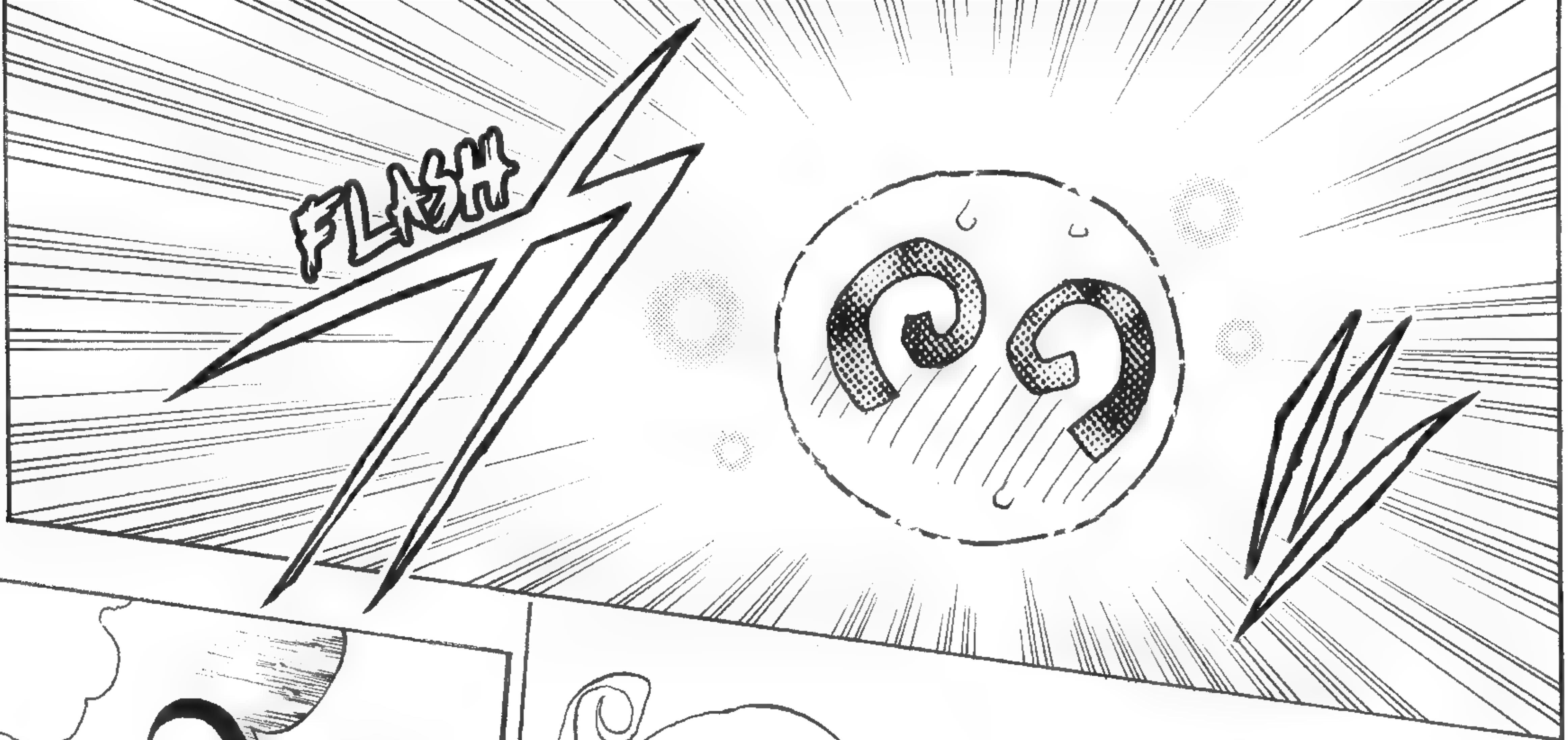
FLASH









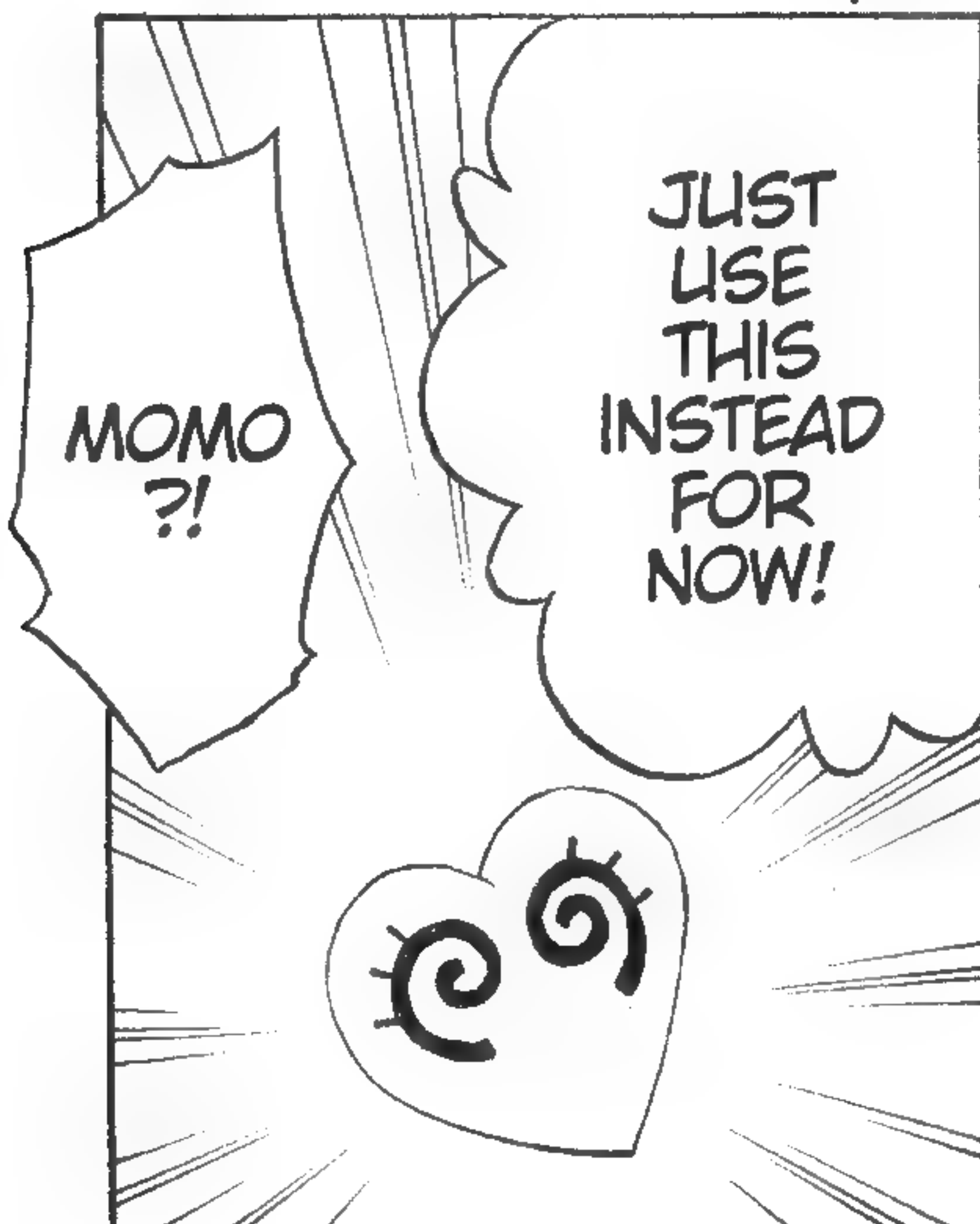


PEKE
?!



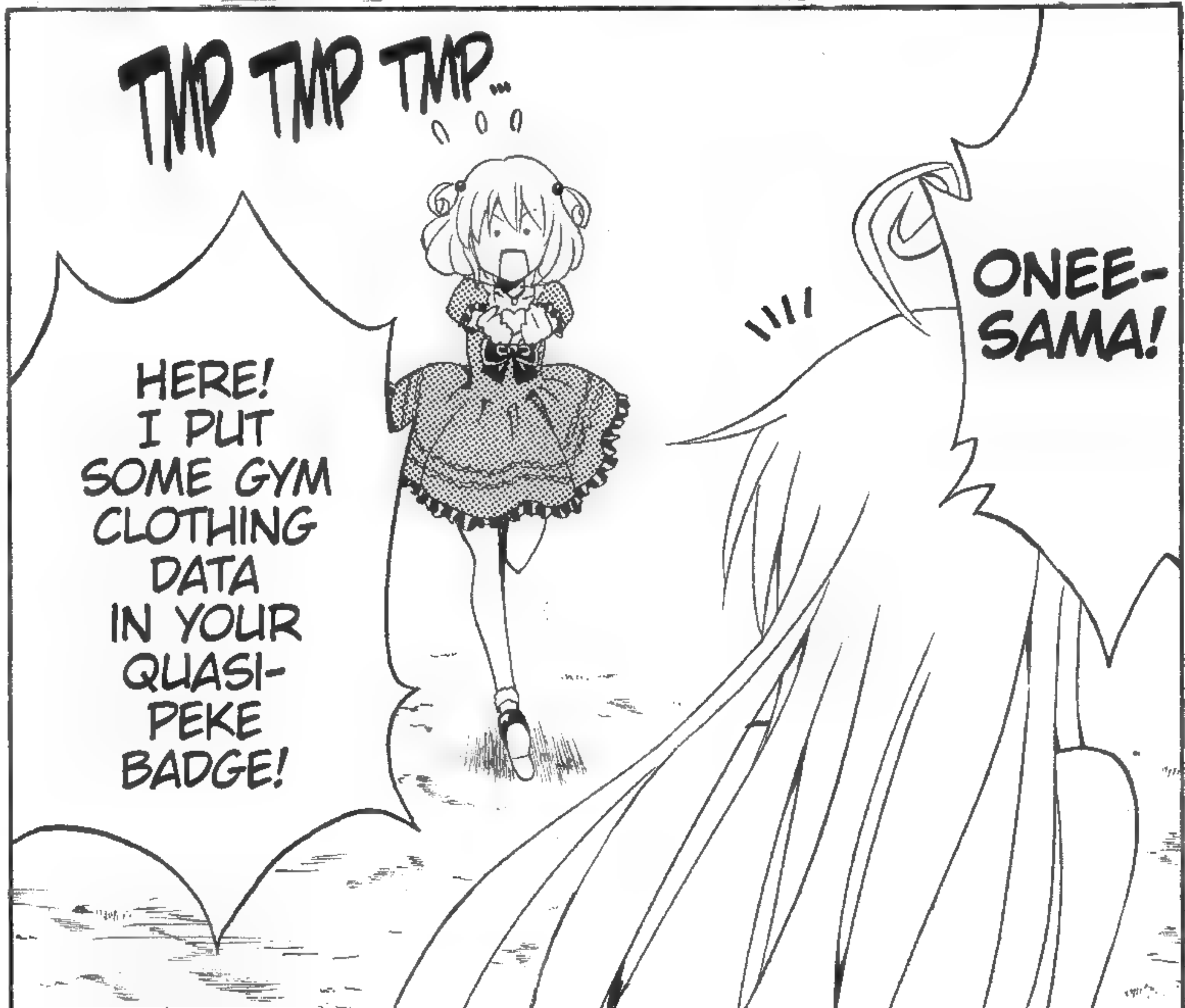
TOPPLE...

HUH
?!



MOMO
?!

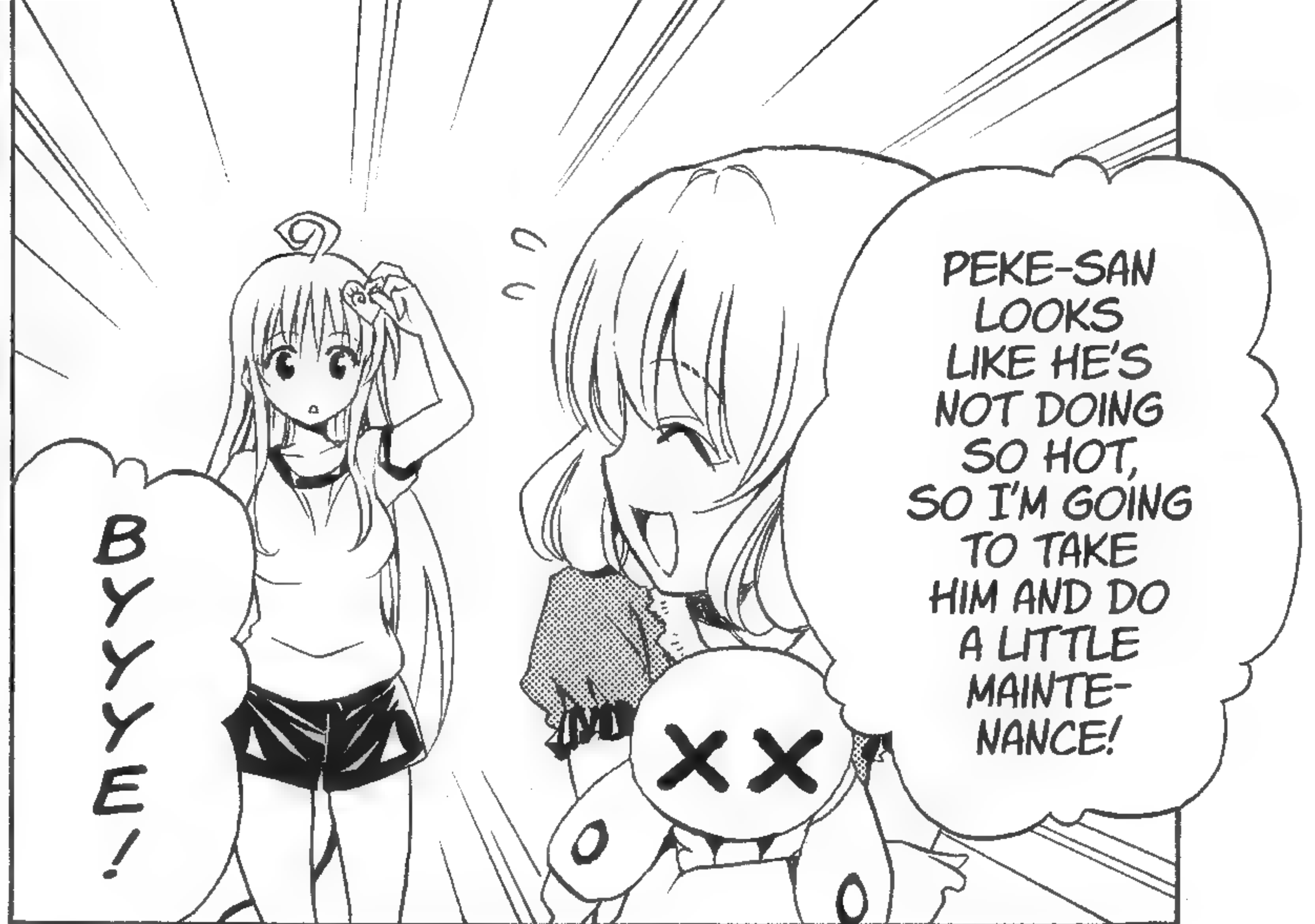
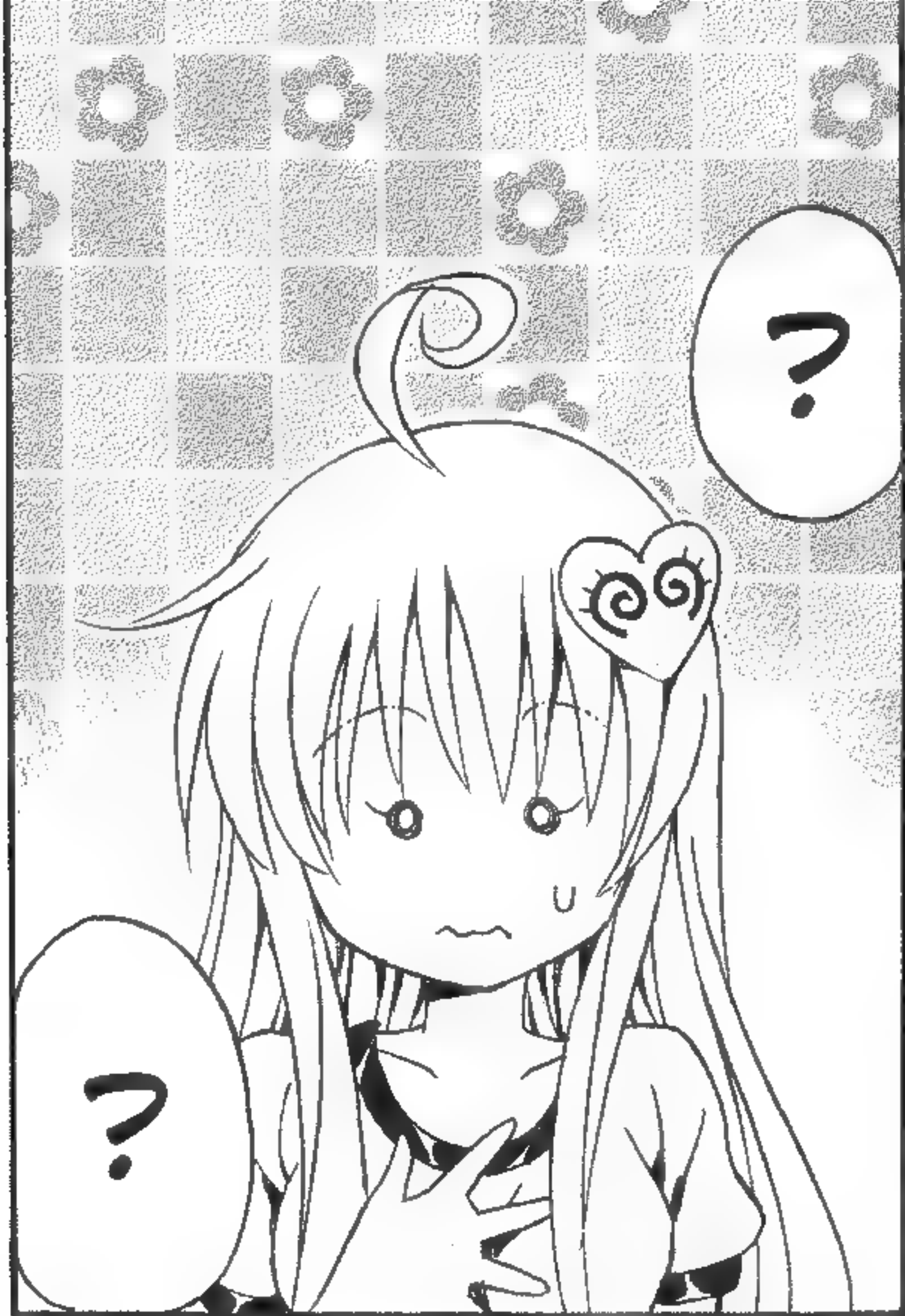
JUST
USE
THIS
INSTEAD
FOR
NOW!

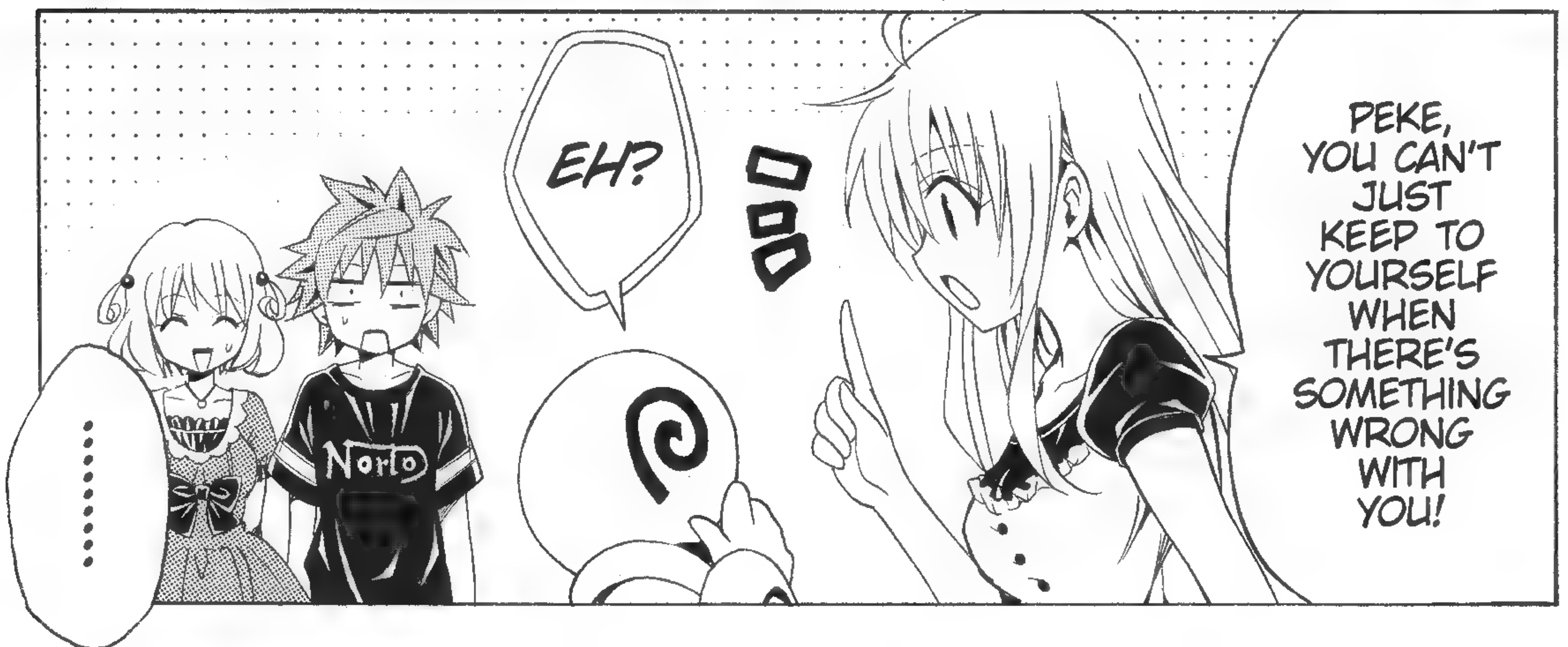


TMP TMP TMP...

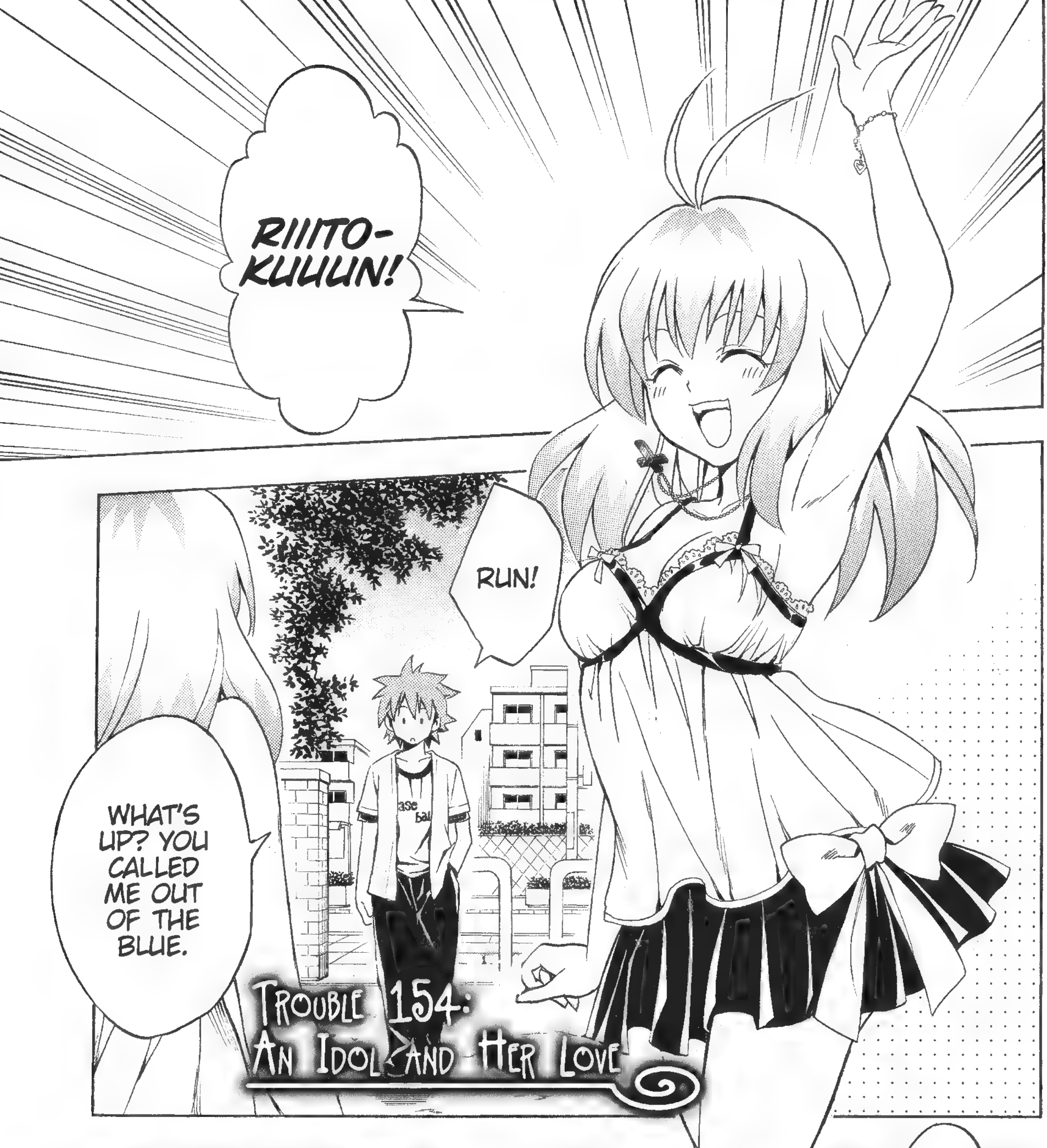
HERE!
I PUT
SOME GYM
CLOTHING
DATA
IN YOUR
QUASI-
PEKE
BADGE!

ONEE-
SAMA!













NOW
MY
FRIEND'S
GOING TO
THINK I'M
TOTALLY
VAIN...

BUT
SURELY
YOU DON'T
MIND
KEEPING ME
COMPANY
EVERY
ONCE IN A
WHILE...



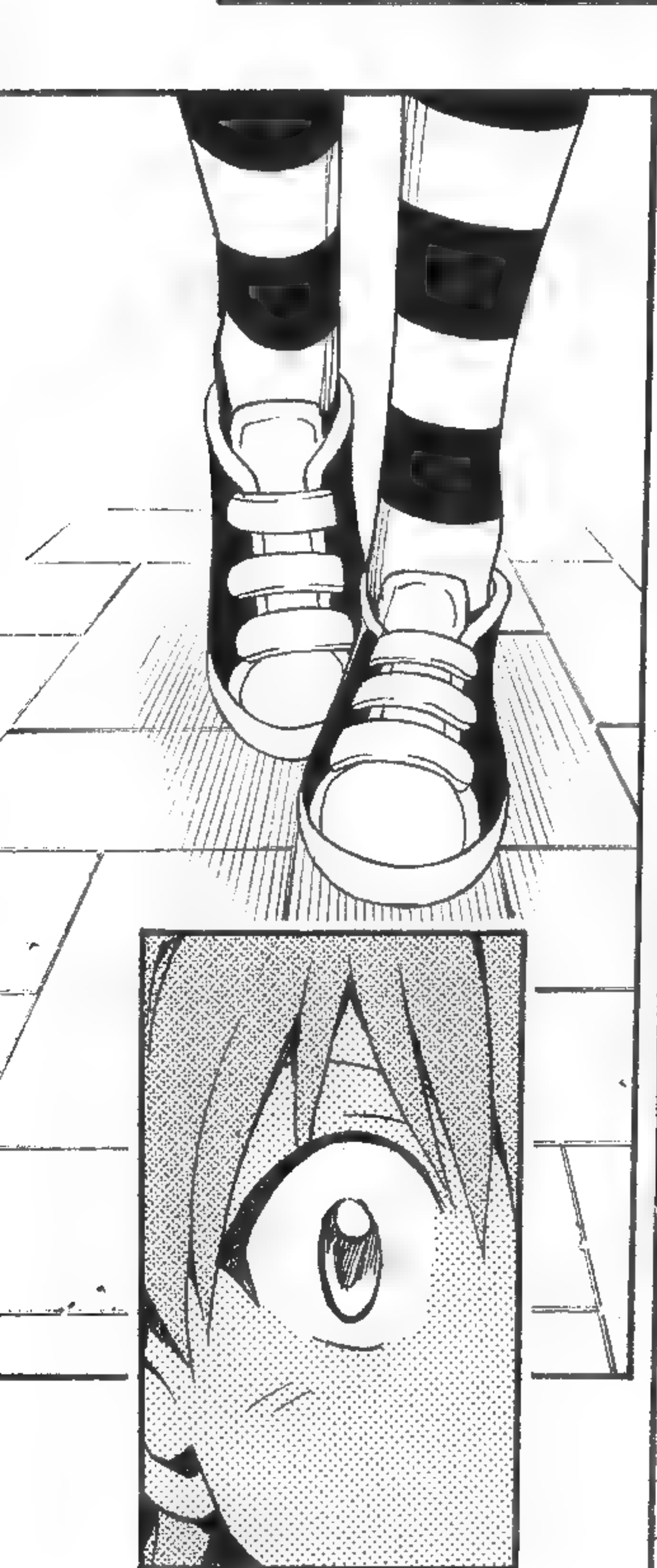
YAY!
♡



I'LL
GIVE IT
MY BEST
SHOT, SO
PLEASE,
JUST
DON'T
CRY!



OKAY,
OKAY!
I'LL
DO IT!!



KYOU-
KO?

¥


OOH,
THERE
SHE IS!
KYOUKO,
OVER
HERE!







SO,
THE FRIEND
RUN
MENTIONED
IS MAGICAL
KYOUKO,
HUH?

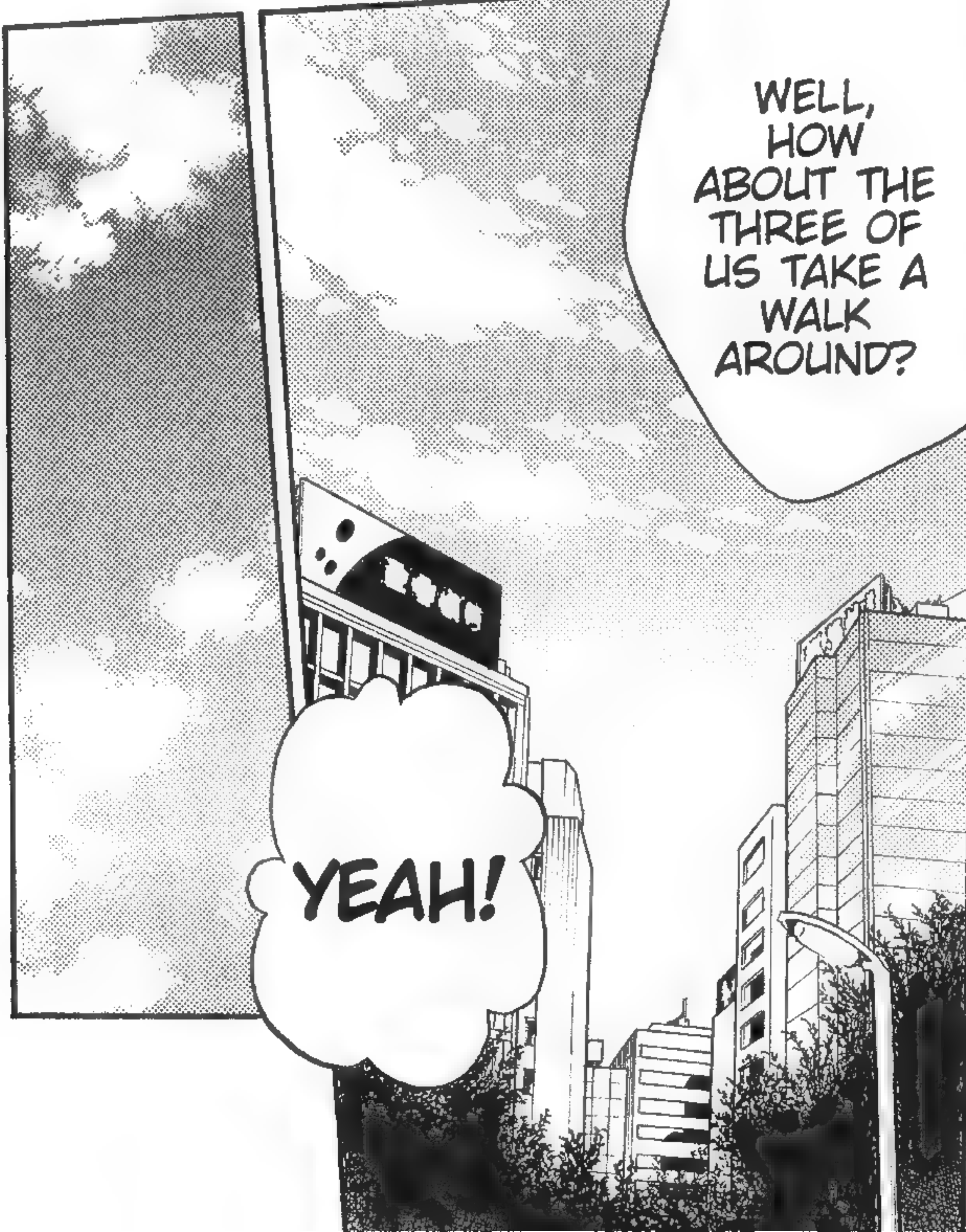


YEAH, NOW
THAT I THINK
OF IT, THEY
APPEARED ON
THE TV SHOW
TOGETHER,
AND THEY'VE
BEEN SINGING
AS A GROUP
LATELY,
TOO...

!



THAT'S
RIGHT,
KYOUKO!
RITO-KUN
HERE'S
MY
BOYFRIEND!



WELL,
HOW
ABOUT THE
THREE OF
US TAKE A
WALK
AROUND?

YEAH!



OH,
UHUUH...
YEAH!
NICE TO
MEET
YOU!



SO, UH, IS
IT OKAY FOR
YOU TWO
TO WALK
AROUND IN
PUBLIC
LIKE THIS?
WHAT WITH
YOU BEING
CELEBRITIES
AND ALL...

KYOUKO
ALWAYS SAYS
THAT IF YOU
WALK OUT INTO
THE WORLD
LIKE YOU OWN
THE PLACE, NO
ONE ACTUALLY
NOTICES YOU!



OOOH,
LOVEY-
DOVEY!



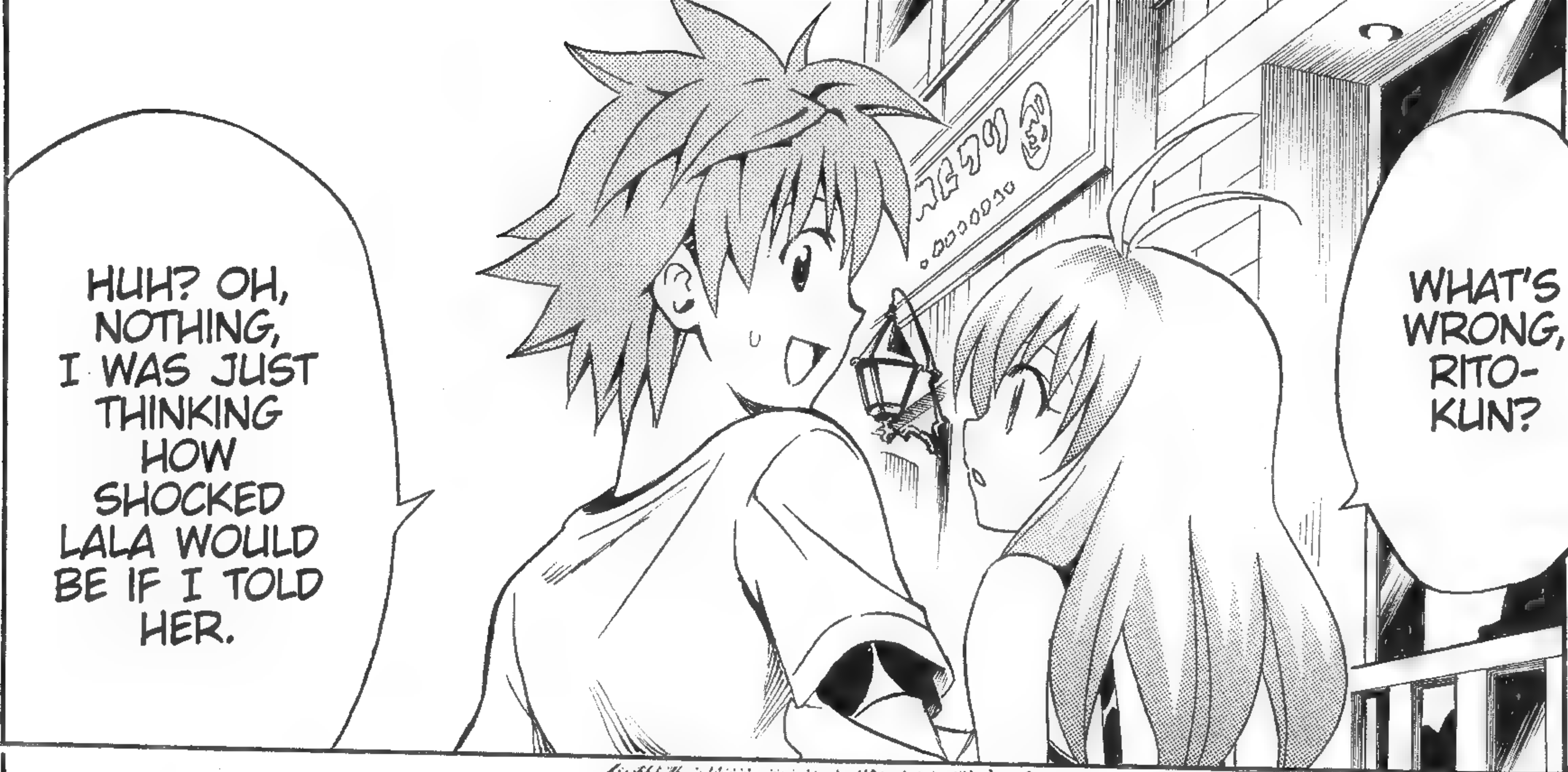
C'MON,
WHAT'S
THE
BIG
DEAL?

D-
DON'T
GLOM
ON
TO ME
LIKE
THAT....!

BUT TO
THINK,
SOMETHING
AS
WONDERFUL
AS RITO
BEING MY
BOYFRIEND
FOR THE DAY
WOULD
HAPPEN!

ALL MY
SHOWING
OFF IN
FRONT OF
KYOUKO HAD
ME A LITTLE
WORRIED
FOR A
MINUTE...






HUH? OH,
NOTHING,
I WAS JUST
THINKING
HOW
SHOCKED
LALA WOULD
BE IF I TOLD
HER.

WHAT'S
WRONG,
RITO-
KUN?



YEAH,
THAT'S
RIGHT!



LALA...
THAT'S
THE
PRINCESS
WHO WAS
RUN'S
CHILDHOOD
PAL,
RIGHT?



OOOH,
I'M SO
GLAD TO
HEAR
THAT!
♡



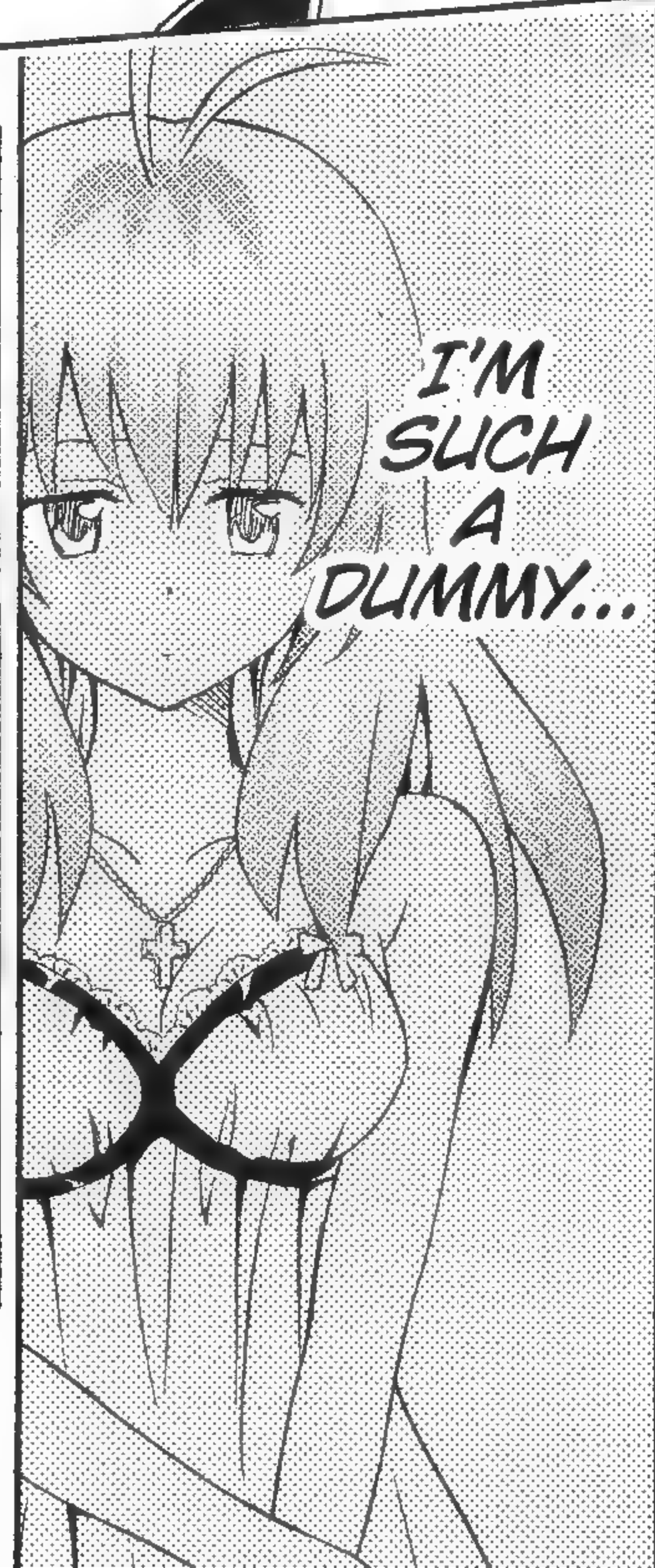
SHE'S
LIKE,
A
MAGICAL
KYOLIKO
SUPER-
FAN!

DESPITE
THAT, HERE
I AM,
HAPPY TO
PRETEND
LIKE
HE'S MY
BOYFRIEND...

HE LOOKS
SO HAPPY
WHEN HE
TALKS
ABOUT
LALA...
DOES HE
LIKE HER
AFTER
ALL...?



HUH?
SOME-
THING
WRONG,
RUN?





TEL
Booksto

ACK!
THE
PRINCI-
PAL!!

OH NO!
THAT
PERVERT
FROM
BEFORE!!

DO MINE
EYES
DECEIVE
ME?!
KYOLIKO-
CHAN AND
RUN-
CHAN?!



FWAP



NOW
THIS
...

IS
CERTAINLY
NO TIME
TO BE
WEARING
CLOTHING
!!

OH,
CRAP!
RUN
AWA-
AAYYY
!!

OH,
WON'T
YOU
PLEEEASE
SIGN MY
BODY?!

IT'S AN
ANTI-PERV
BOMB!
I BOUGHT
IT FROM
GALACTIC
MAIL ORDER!
WE'LL
GET RID OF
HIM WITH
THIS!

RUN?!
WHAT'S
THAT?!

THAT
WAY
!!

HR-
NGH
?!

BOOMF

EEEEEEK!!

SLIP

OH!



ARE
YOU
TWO
OKAY?!

WHAT
THE
--?!

IIMTIT





OH,
NUTS!
SHIELD
ME!!

!!
squish

WH-
WHOA
....!



SO
THAT'S
WHERE
YOU
WERE
HIDING!!

H E E E E ! ♡



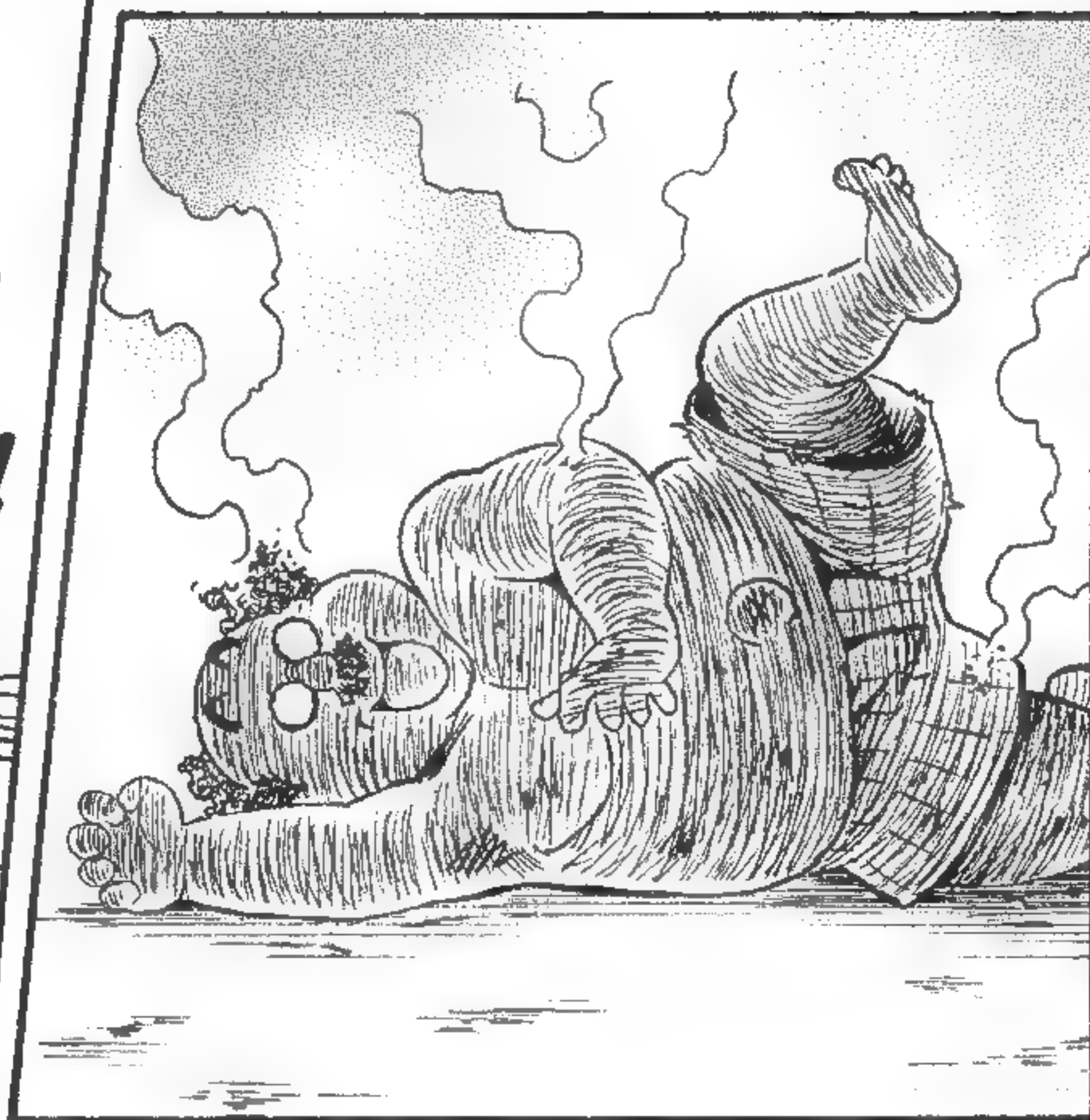
WAIT
....!





YOU
HIDE
HERE
!!

I-I'LL
GO BUY
YOU TWO
SOME
CLOTHES!!



I'M SO
SORRY,
KYOUKO!

GLOON

A...
A BOY
SAW ME...
COMPLETELY...
AND
TOTALLY...





I
FIGURED
IT OUT
PRETTY
QUICK,
YUP.

IT DIDN'T
TAKE LONG.
YOU TWO
WERE
PRETTY
AWKWARD.

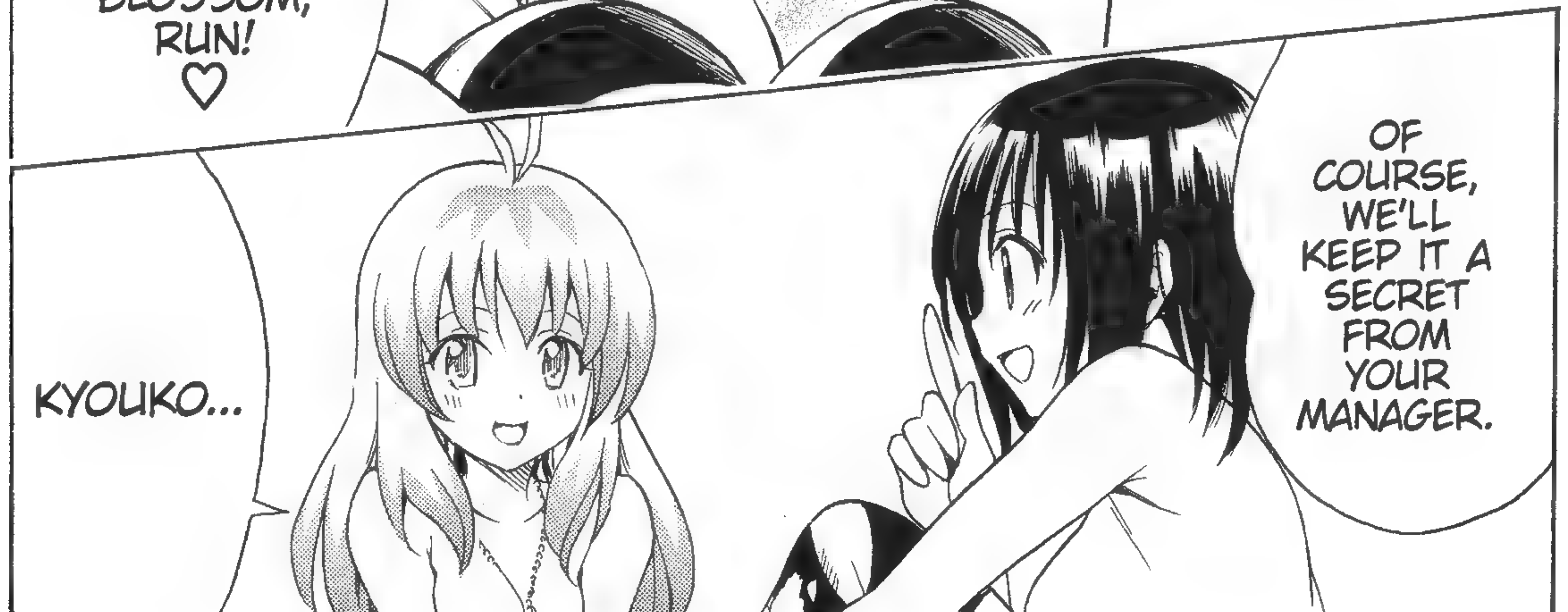
YOU
KNEW?



YOU
NEED
A FEW
POINTERS
WITH
HIM.

ER...
SORRY...

AND FROM
NOW ON, I'M
GONNA HELP
YOU MAKE THIS
LITTLE RO-
MANCE OF
YOURS
BLOSSOM,
RUN!
♡



KYOLIKO...

OF
COURSE,
WE'LL
KEEP IT A
SECRET
FROM
YOUR
MANAGER.

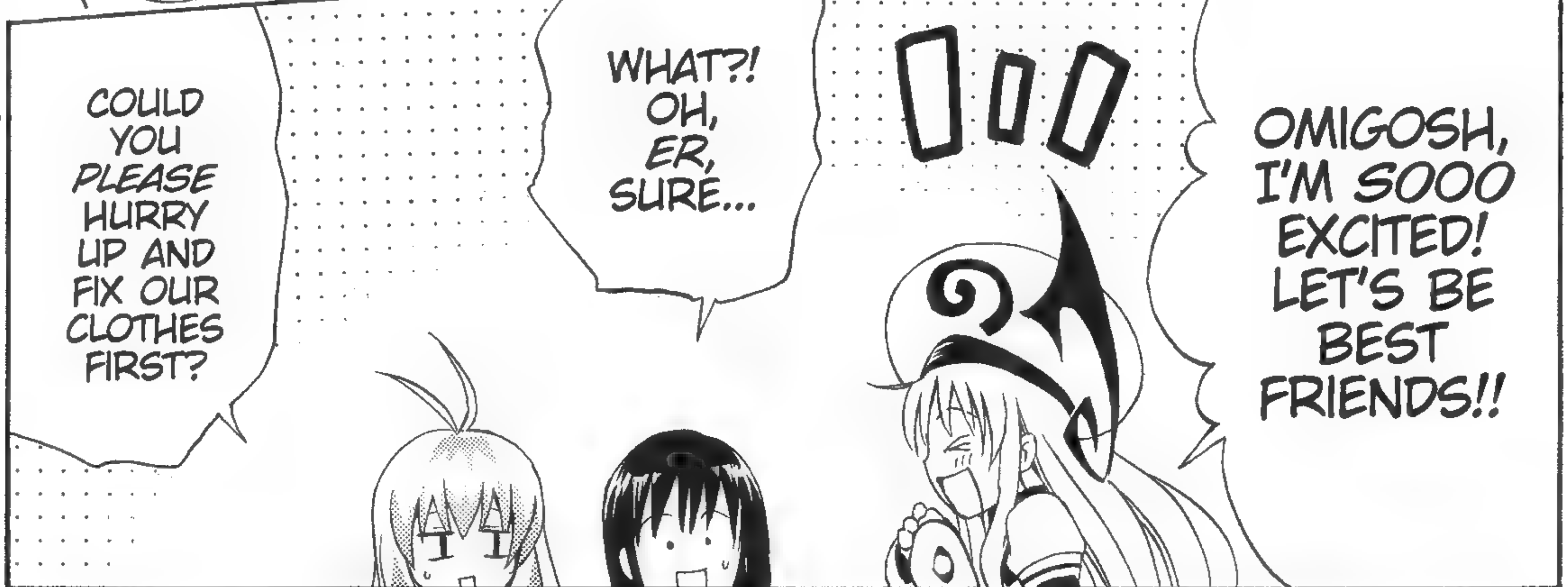


WOOOOW!!
THE REAL
KYOUKO-
CHAN,
IN THE
FLESH!!

I CALLED
LALA AND
BROUGHT
HER HERE!
PEKE CAN
REPAIR
YOUR
CLOTHES!



HEEEYY!!

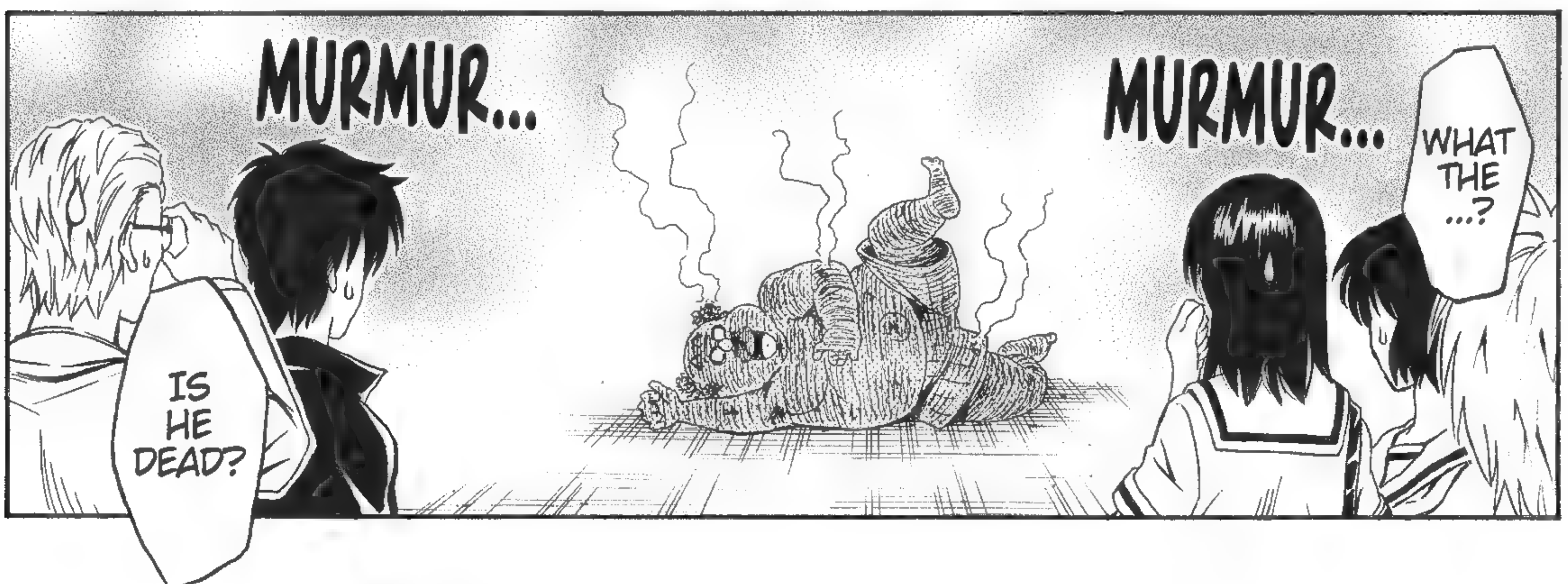


COULD
YOU
PLEASE
HURRY
UP AND
FIX OUR
CLOTHES
FIRST?

WHAT?!
OH,
ER,
SURE...

〇〇〇

OMIGOSH,
I'M SOOO
EXCITED!
LET'S BE
BEST
FRIENDS!!



MURMUR...

IS
HE
DEAD?

MURMUR...

WHAT
THE
...?





HEY,
KOTE-
GAWA!

TMP TMP TMP

〇〇〇

WHAT
IS IT,
YULKI-
KUN?

I WAS
WONDERING IF
YOU'VE EVER
HEARD OF
MIDNIGHT DATE!
IT'S A
FANTASY BOOK
WITH A CAT
AS THE MAIN
CHARACTER.

OH,
I SHOULD'VE
EXPECTED
AS MUCH
FROM A
CAT LOVER
LIKE YOU!

YES.
I'M
READING
IT RIGHT
NOW,
IN FACT.
WHY?

TROUBLE 155:
HEART-POUNDING☆MAIL



OH, THAT
SOUNDS TIME-
SENSITIVE,
DOESN'T IT?
YOU CAN
BORROW IT
AS SOON AS
I'M DONE,
SURE.

SERI-
OUSLY
?!

I WAS
WONDERING
IF I COULD
BORROW
YOUR COPY
WHEN
YOU'RE DONE
WITH IT.

SO, YOU SEE,
MY OLD MAN'S
ACTUALLY
TRYING TO
GET A COPY
FOR WORK,
BUT IT'S
SOLD OUT
EVERYWHERE!



AWESOME,
THANKS!!

I REALLY
ONLY
NEED TO
READ
IT ONCE,
AFTER
ALL.



ALL
RIGHT...

YOUR
EMAIL
?!



WHEN
YOU'RE
DONE,
JUST
LET ME
KNOW!

I'LL
GIVE
YOU MY
EMAIL,
THEN!

TROUBLE 155:
HEART-POUNDING☆MAIL







THIS WILL
BE THE
FIRST TIME
I'VE EVER
MESSAGED A
BOY OUTSIDE
OF MY OWN
FAMILY...

BA-DUMP

URK...
NOW
THAT I
THINK
OF IT...



THERE'S
NOTHING
SALACIOUS
ABOUT IT
AT ALL!!

BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

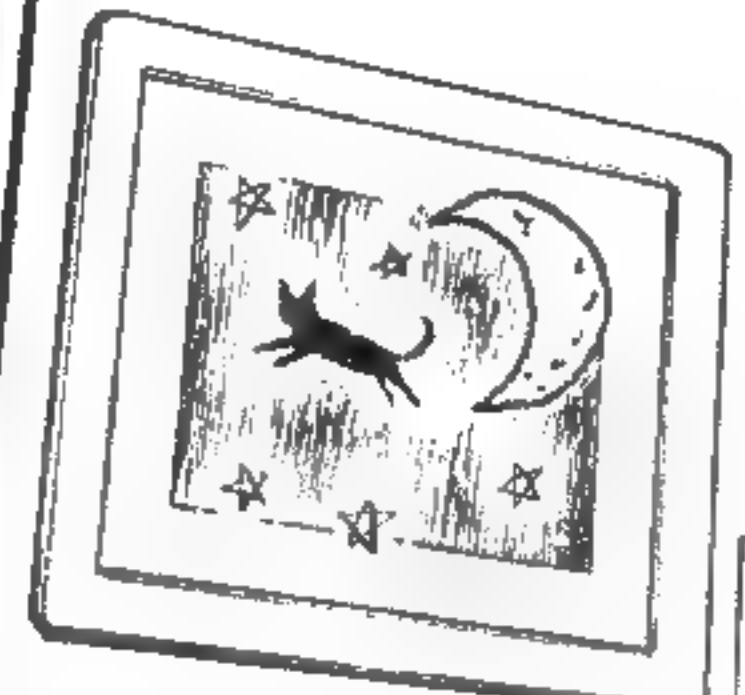
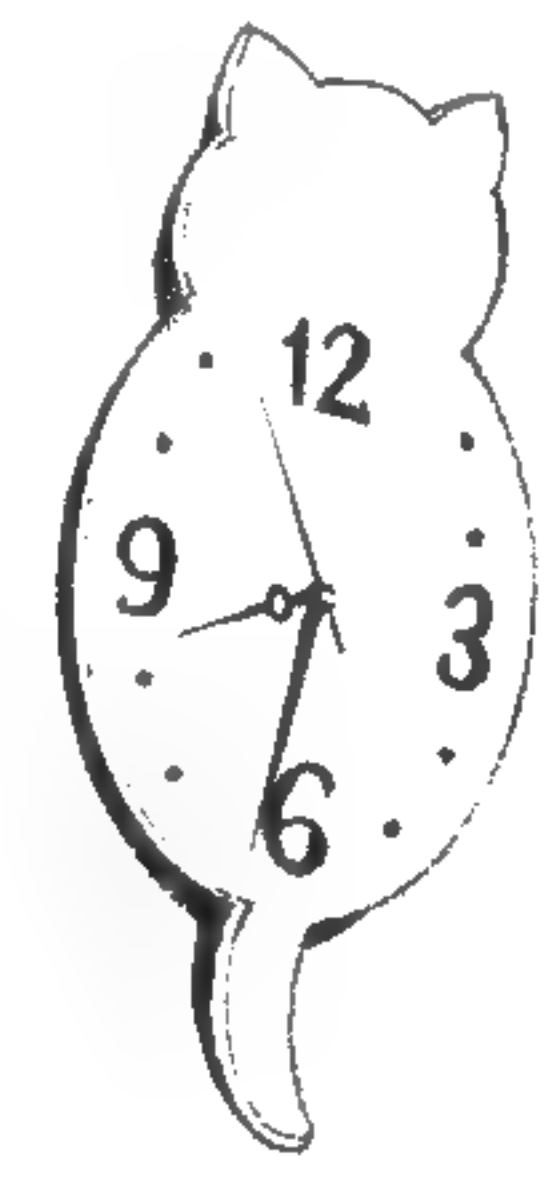
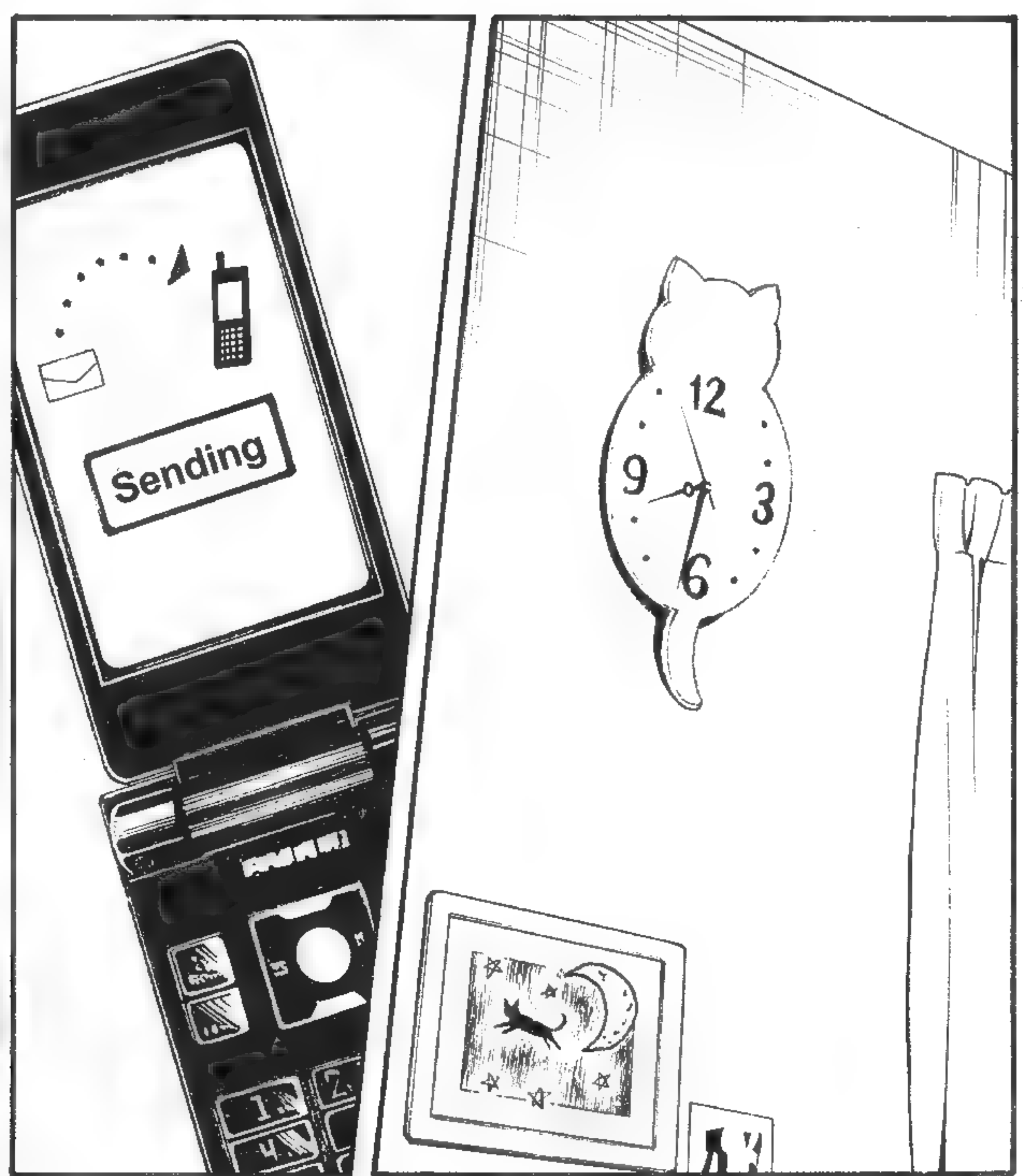
TH...
THIS IS
JUST A
REGULAR
OLD MES-
SAGE!

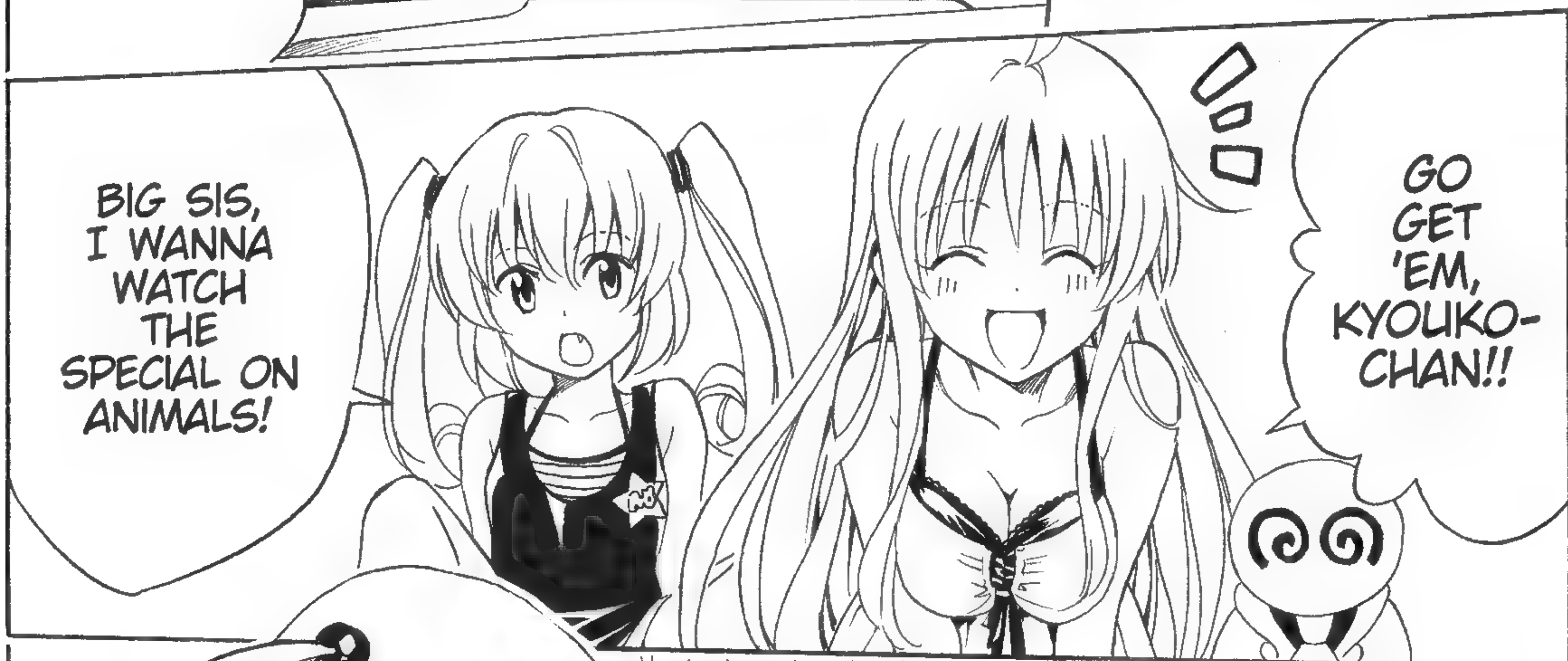


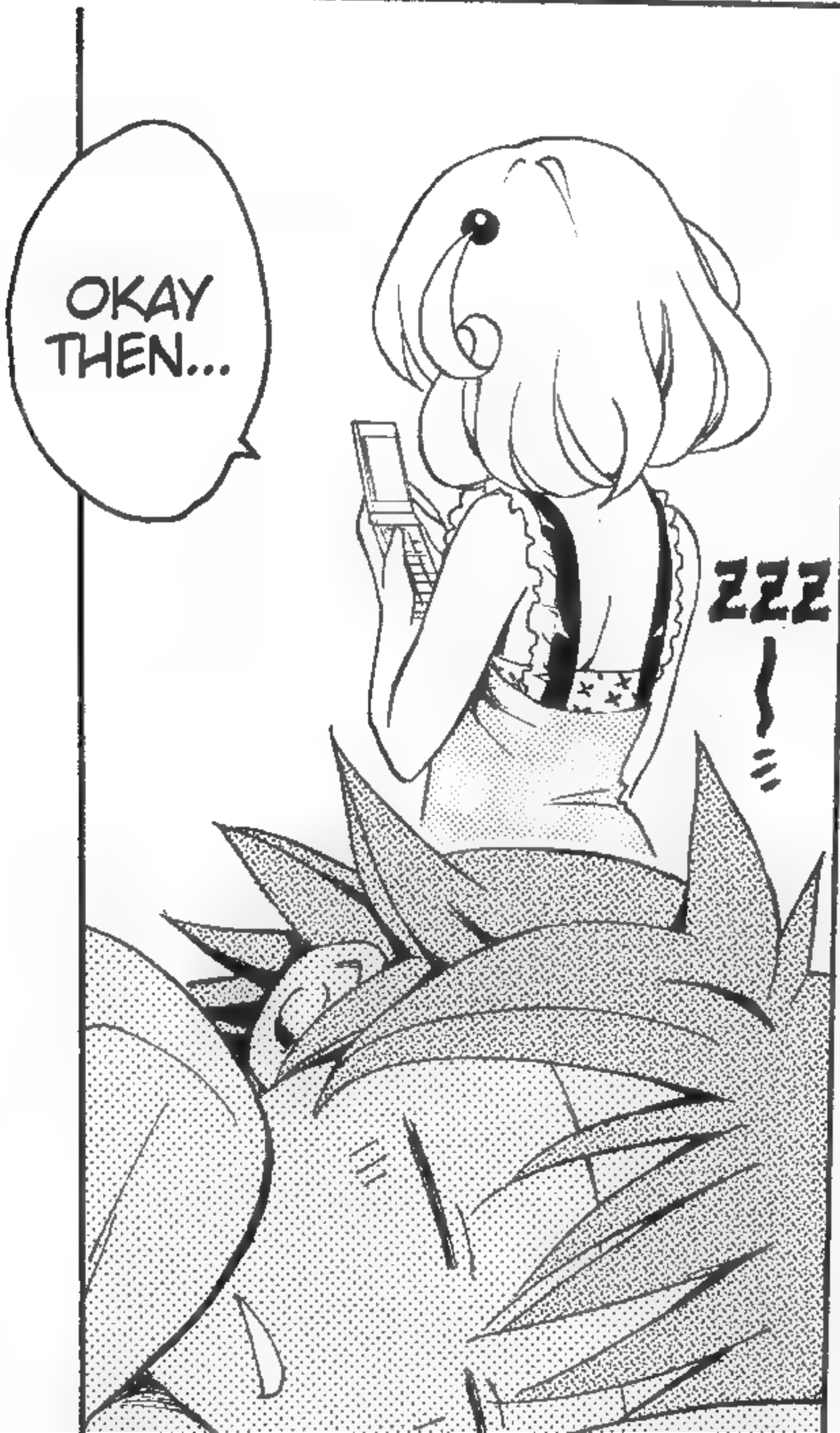
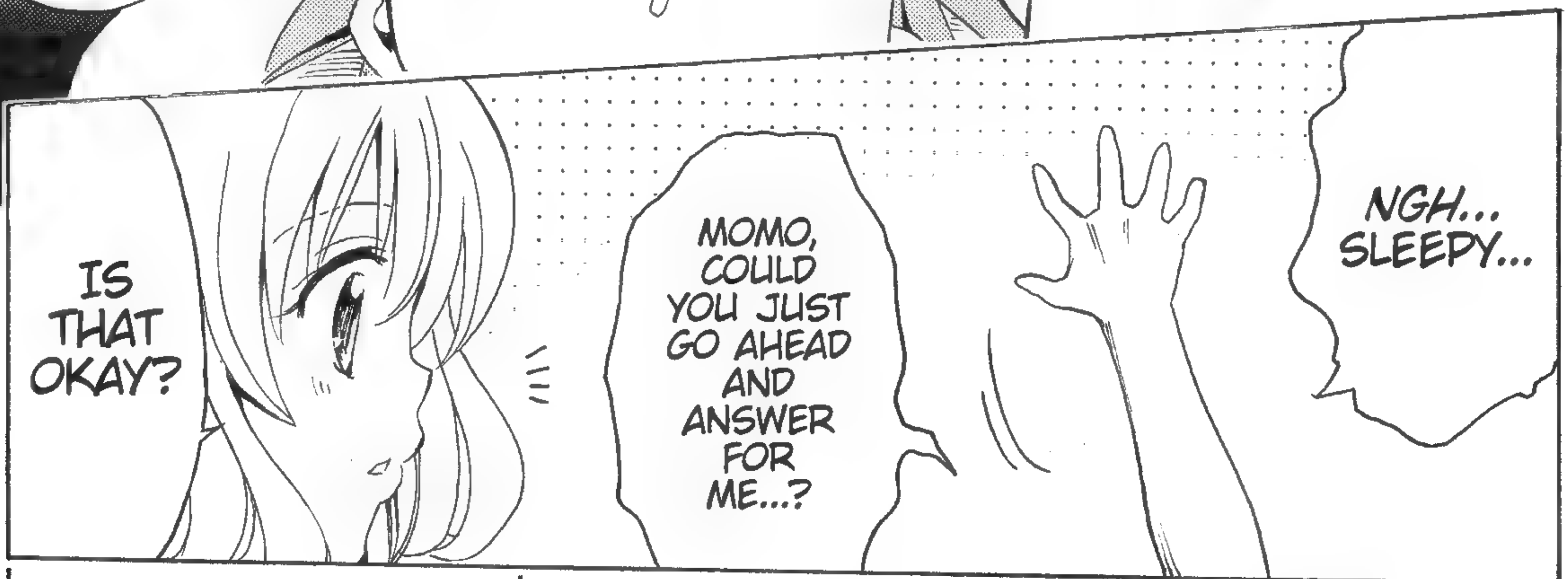
FWUMP

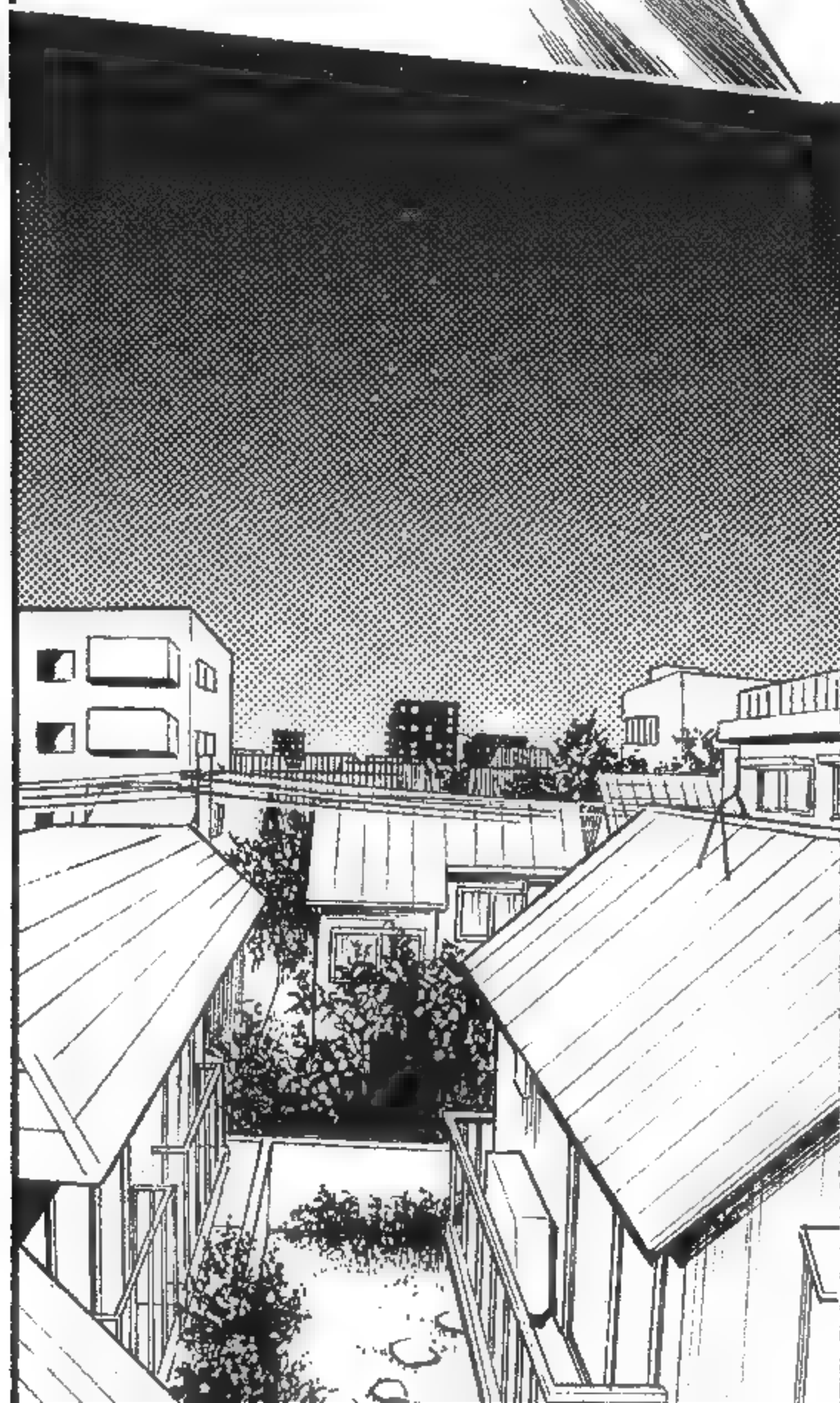
UGH...IT
TOOK ME
MORE
THAN HALF
AN HOUR
TO WRITE
THAT ONE
MESSAGE.

GUESS
I'LL
GO
TAKE A
BATH...









YUUKI-
KUN...
I WONDER
IF YOU
READ MY
MESSAGE
YET...



WHAM!

H-HE
WROTE
BACK!!

!!

RING-
A-
DING



A...
A
SECRET
BETWEEN
US?

Thank you! I'm so glad
that's how you felt!
We'll keep it a secret
between us! ♡

--Rito



?!

WHAT
THE HECK
IS THAT
SUPPOSED
TO
MEAN?!



I DIDN'T
REALIZE
THAT'S
HOW SHE
LOOKED
AT HIM...



WHEW...
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
SOMEONE AS
SERIOUS AS
KOTEGAWA-
SAN
WOULD DO
THAT...



OH! YEAH.
HE ASKED
ME TO
REPLY TO A
MESSAGE
FROM
KOTEGAWA-
SAN...

HM?
WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?
ISN'T
THAT
RITO'S
PHONE?

E
E
K!

MOMO
!!

BIG SIS
SAID SHE'S
GOING
TO TAKE
THE BATH
FIRST!

YOINK

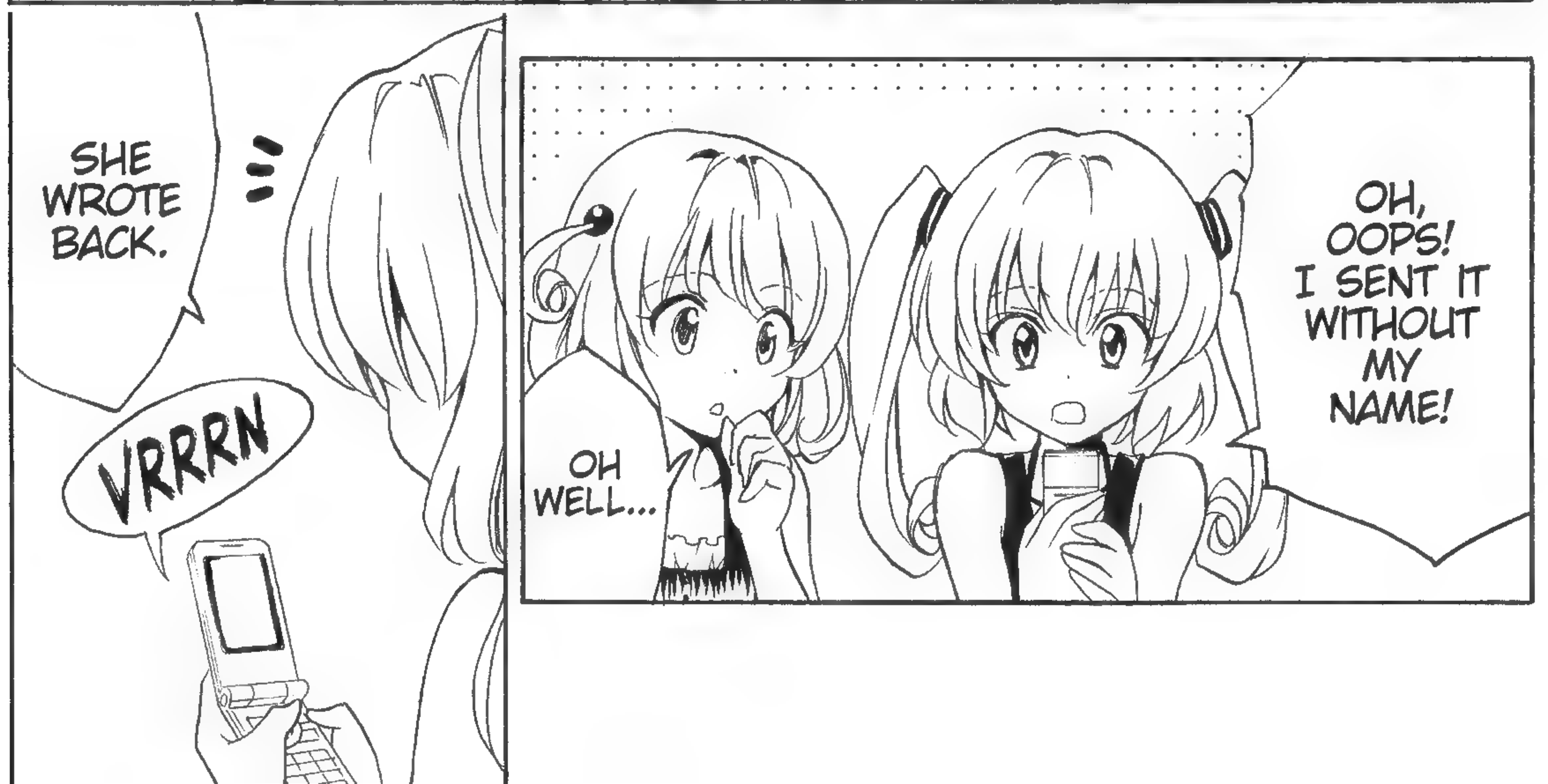
GIMME
THAT A
SEC!

HEY!

YOU
CAN'T JUST
GRAB
STUFF
OUT OF
MY HAND,
NANA!

THAT'S
PERFECT
TIMING,
I ACTUALLY
HAD
SOMETHING I
WANTED TO
ASK HER,
TOO!

OOH,
KOTE-
GAWA
?!







YEAH.

I'LL
GET
THEM
IN
JUST A
SEC.

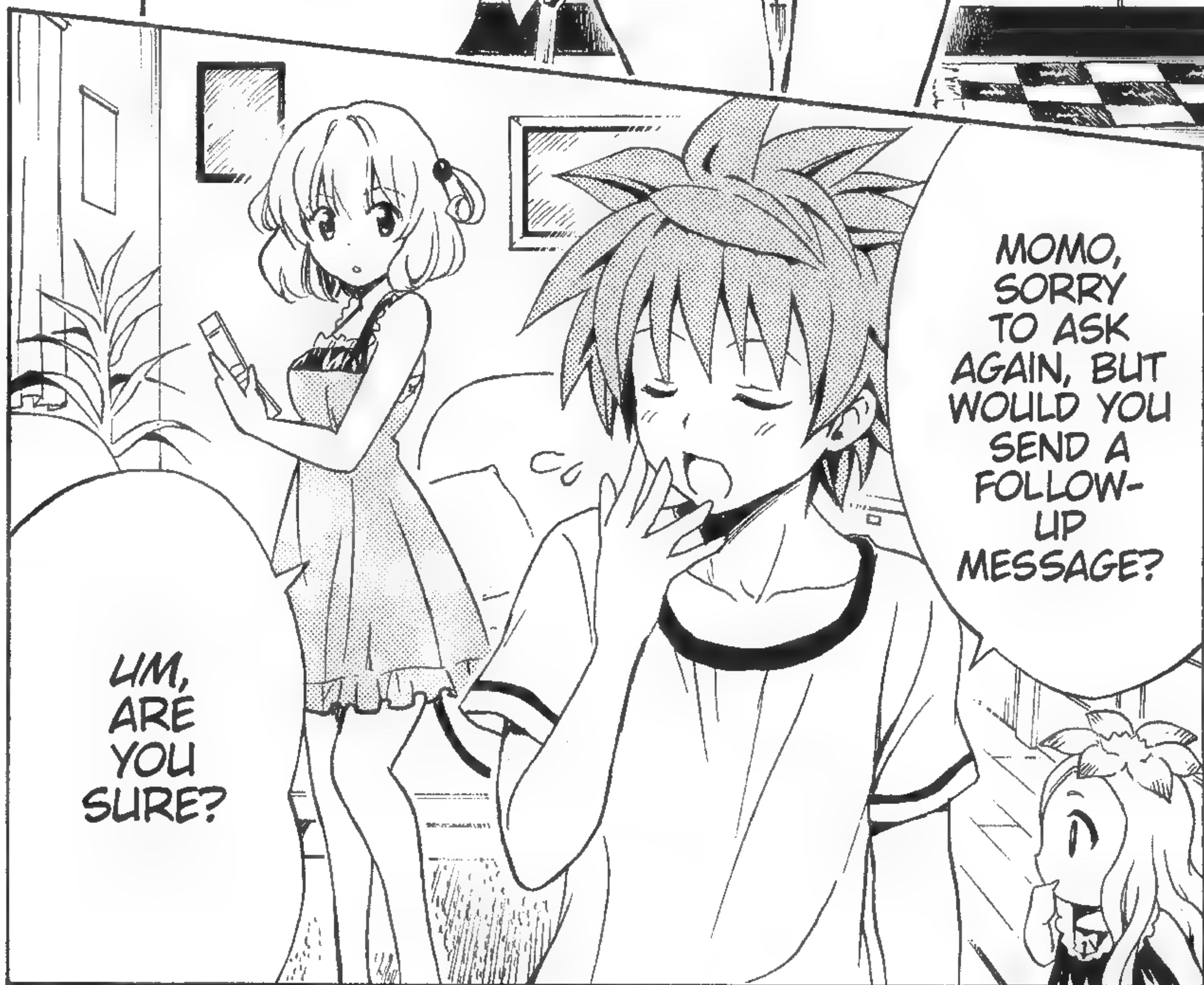


RIIITOOO!

A
FRIEND
JUST
CALLED.
CAN YOU
DO THE
DISHES
FOR
ME?

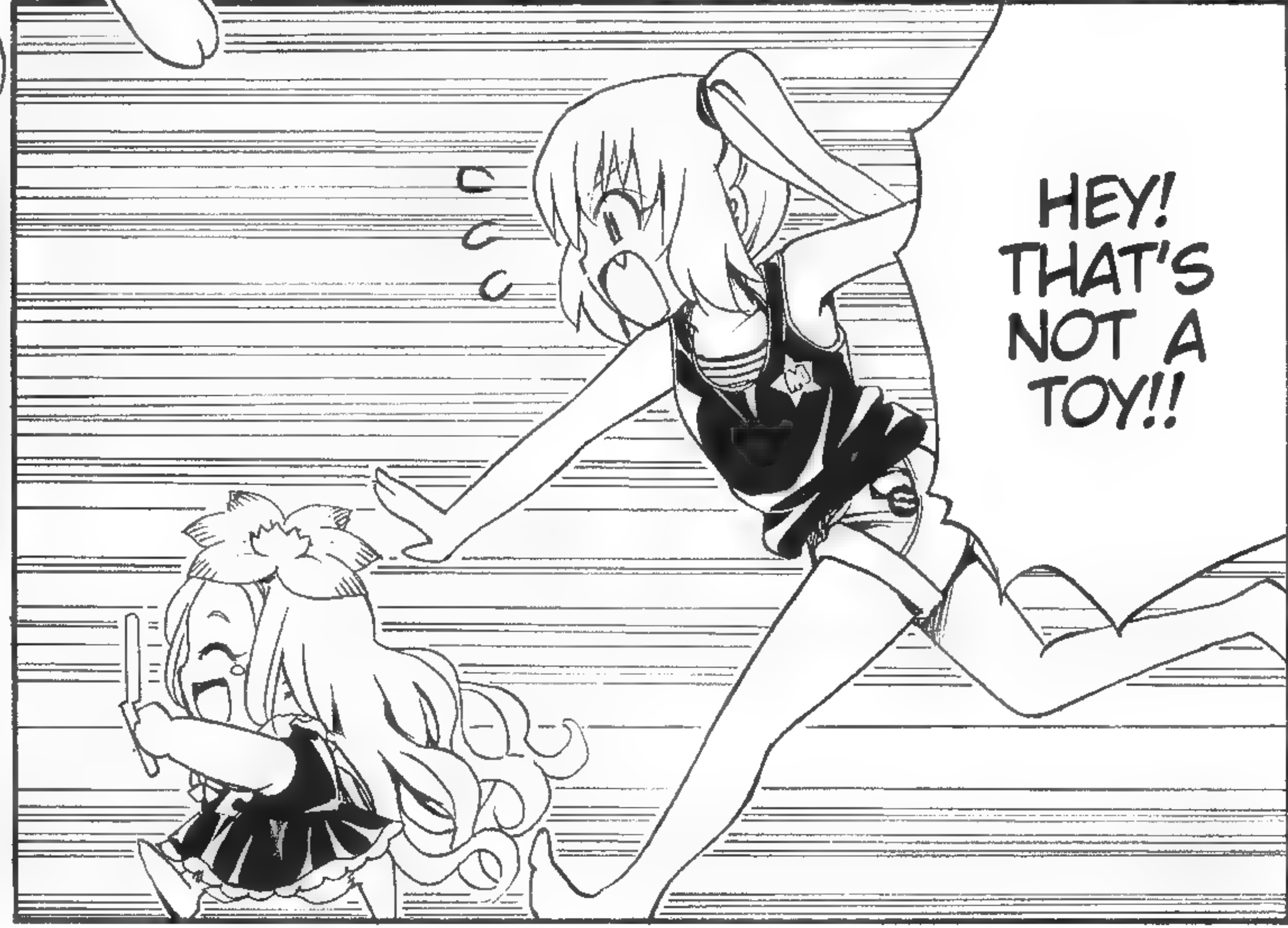
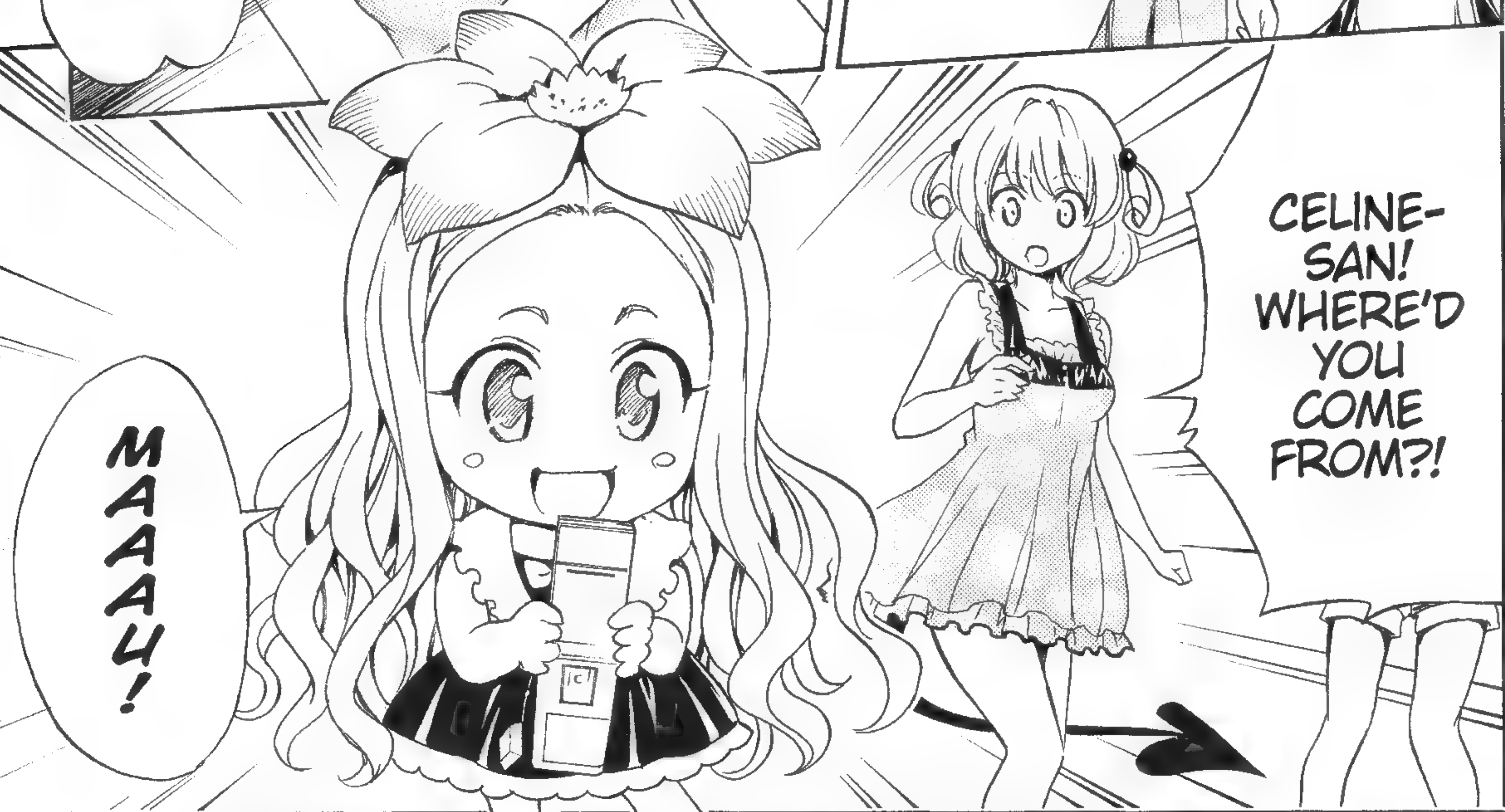


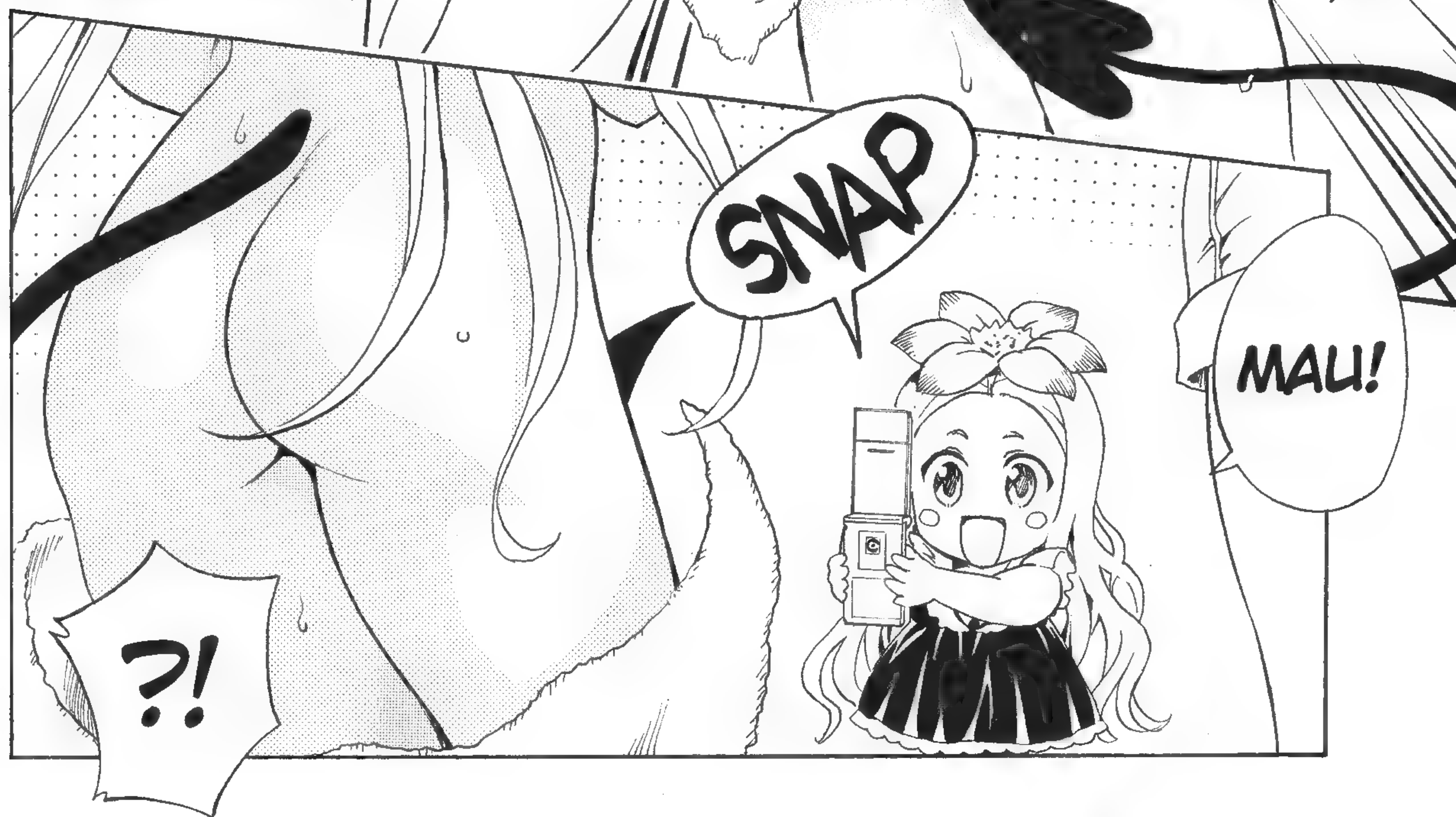
YEP.
THANKS.

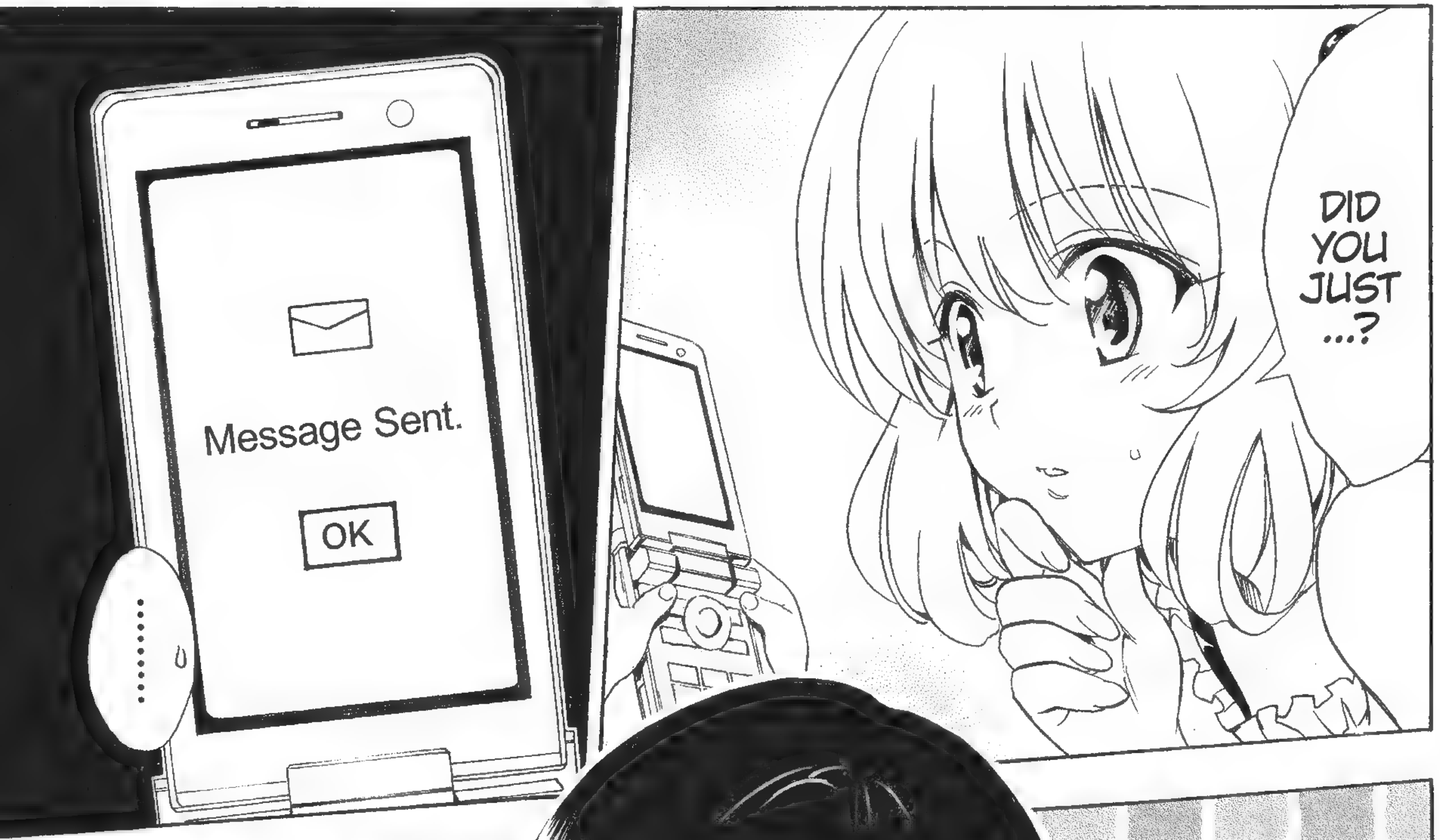


MOMO,
SORRY
TO ASK
AGAIN, BUT
WOULD YOU
SEND A
FOLLOW-
UP
MESSAGE?

UM,
ARE
YOU
SURE?









I CAN'T
ALWAYS
BE GET-
TING
ANGRY AT
HIM LIKE
THIS... AT
THIS RATE,
I'LL
NEVER...



THAT
WAS JUST
YULKI-
KUN'S
WAY OF
JOKING
AROUND,
I BET.

NOT
GOOD...
I JUST
HAVE
TO BE
CALM.



RING-
A-
DING

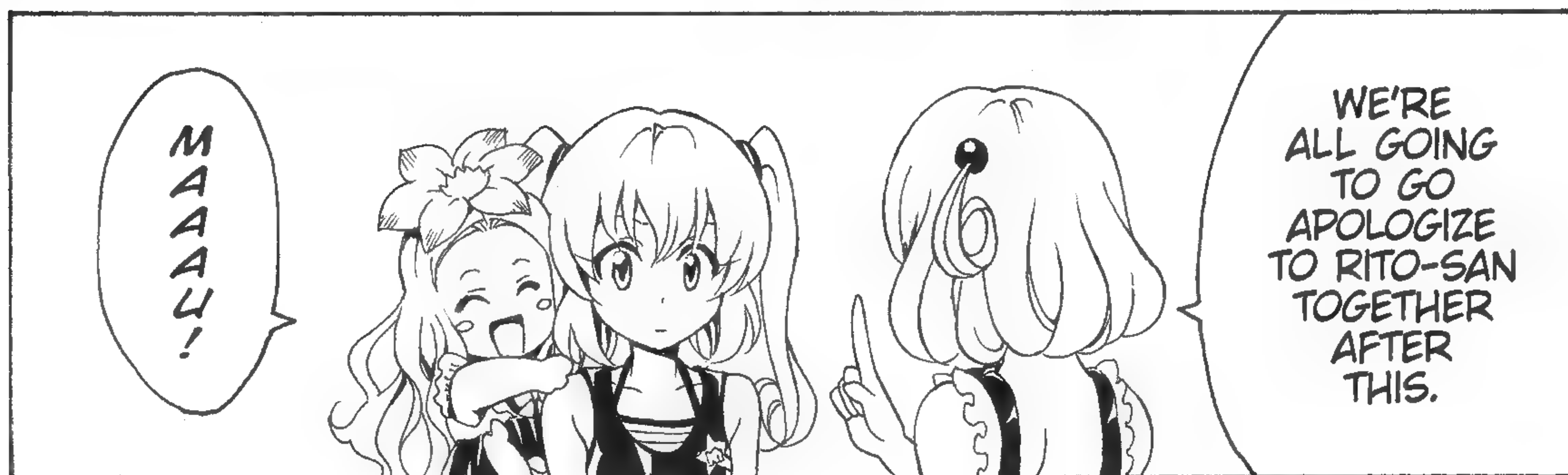
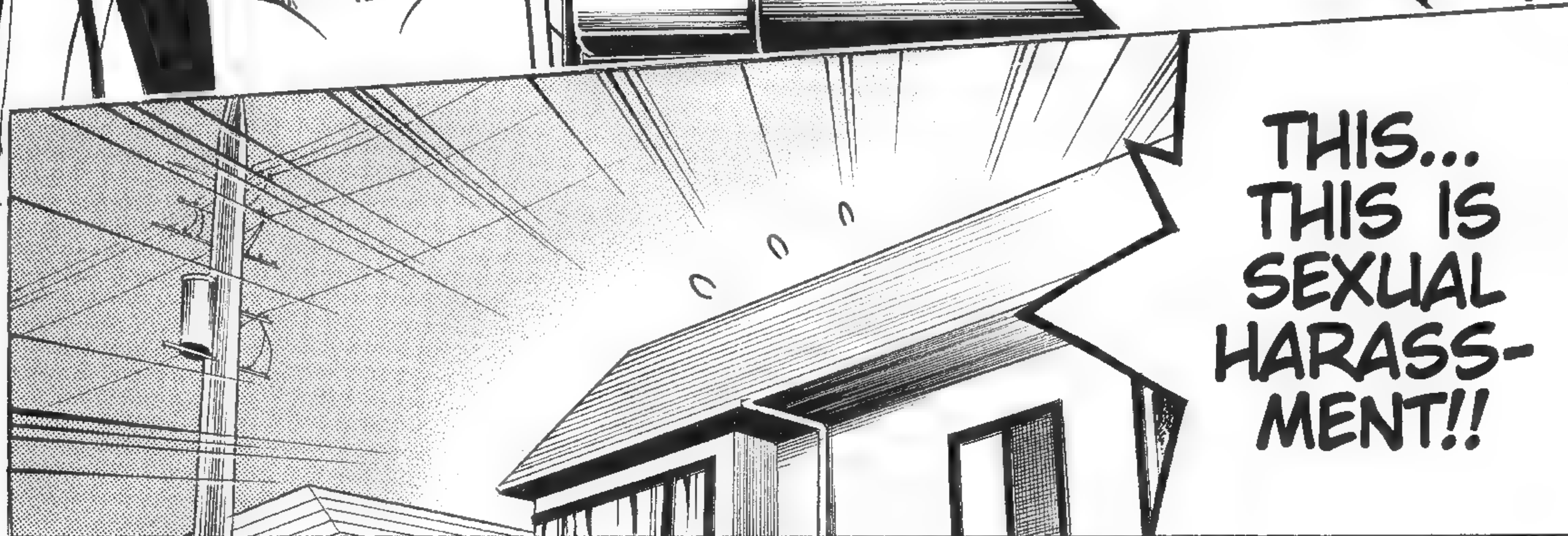
?!

OKAY!
TIME
TO GIVE
THIS
ANOTHER
SHOT!

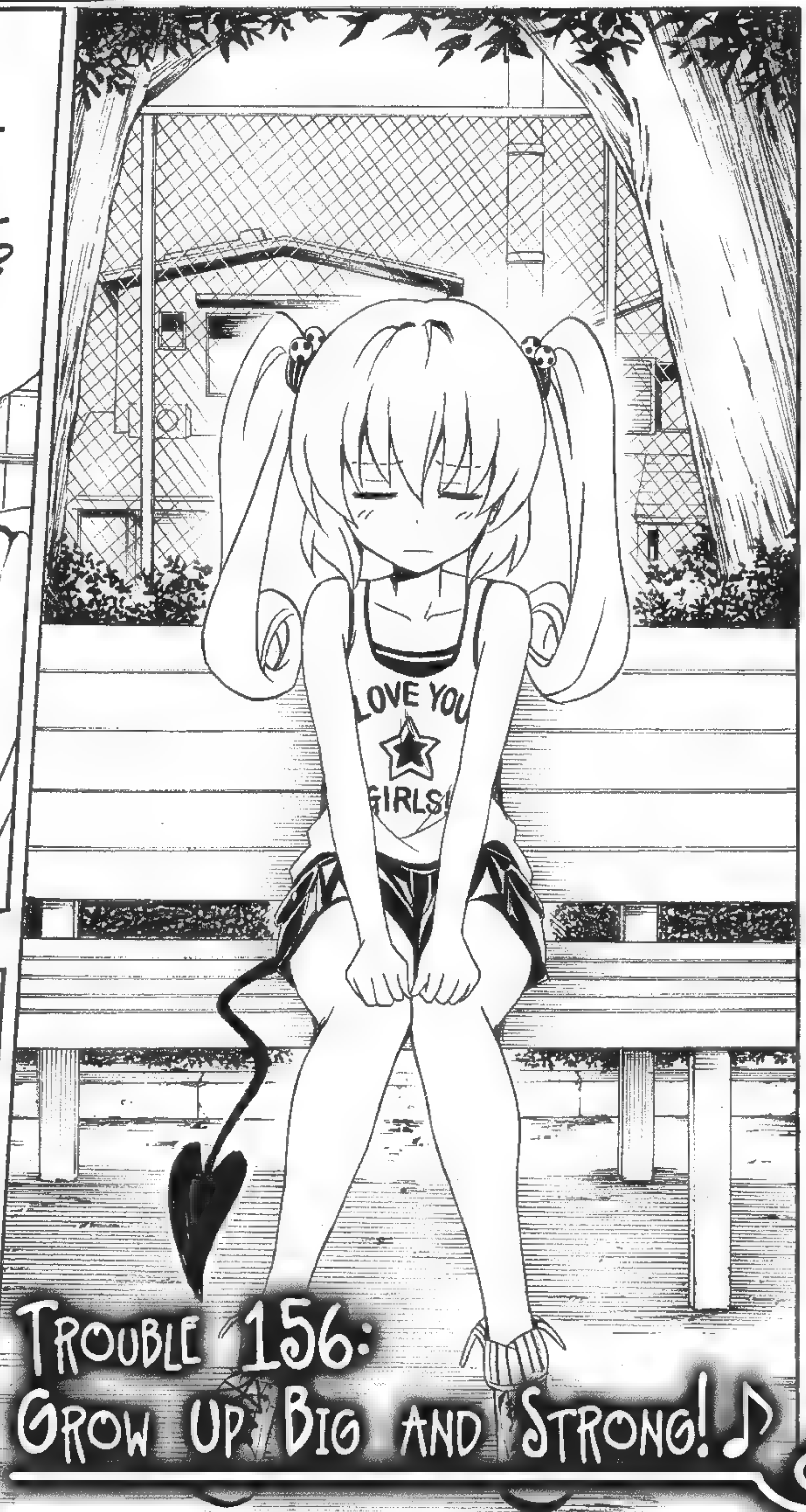


SHOOT,
HE
WROTE
BACK
FIRST!

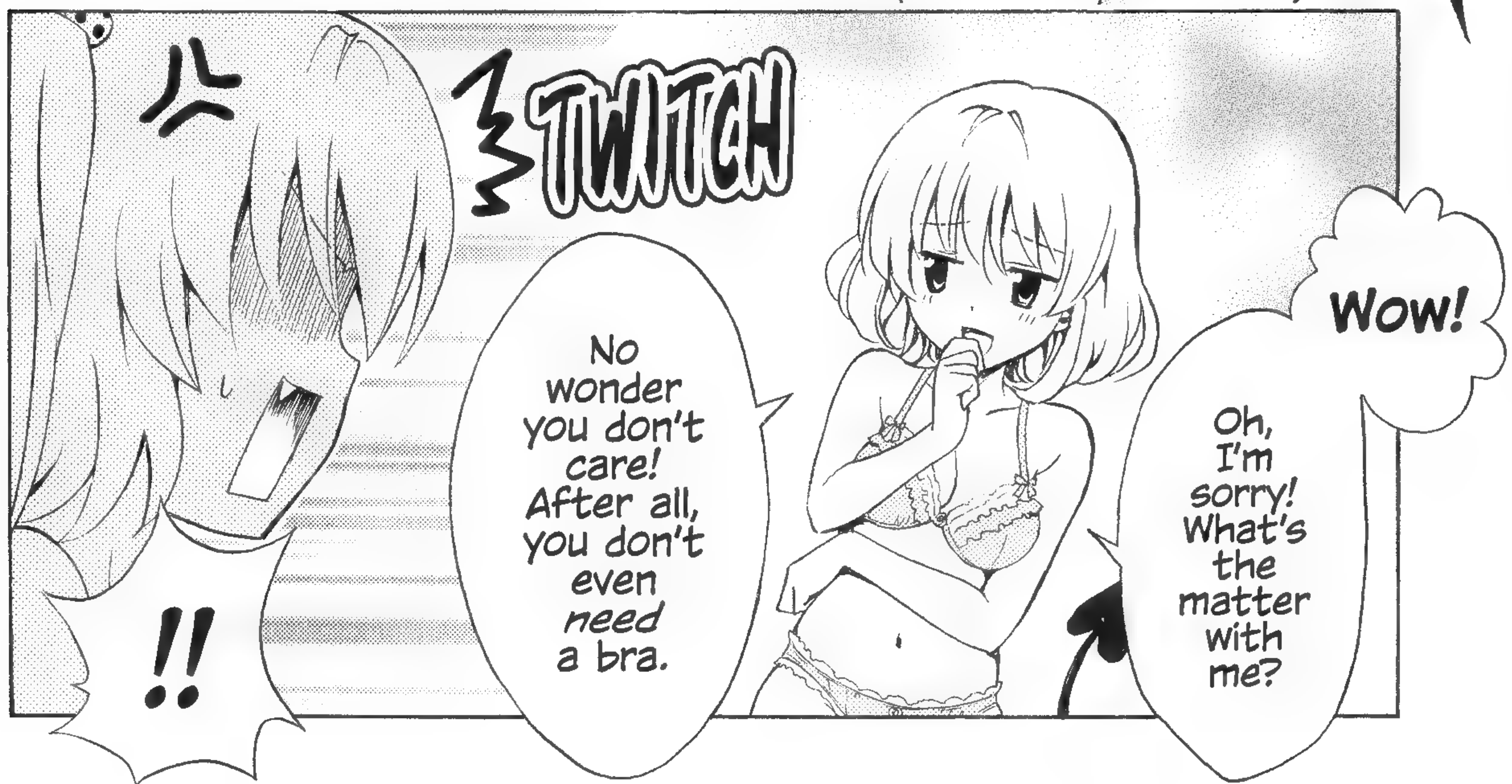
YULKI-
KUN!







TROUBLE 156:
GROW UP BIG AND STRONG! ♪





I SEE...

AND SO,
LIKE, SHE'S
ALWAYS
RAZZING ME
ABOUT MY
CHEST AND
HOW BIG
HERS IS!!



WHAT
?!

WHATEVER
IT TAKES,
I'M GOING
TO MAKE
MY BOOBS
BIGGER AND
SHOW HER
WHO'S
BOSS!



I'VE
HAD
IT!

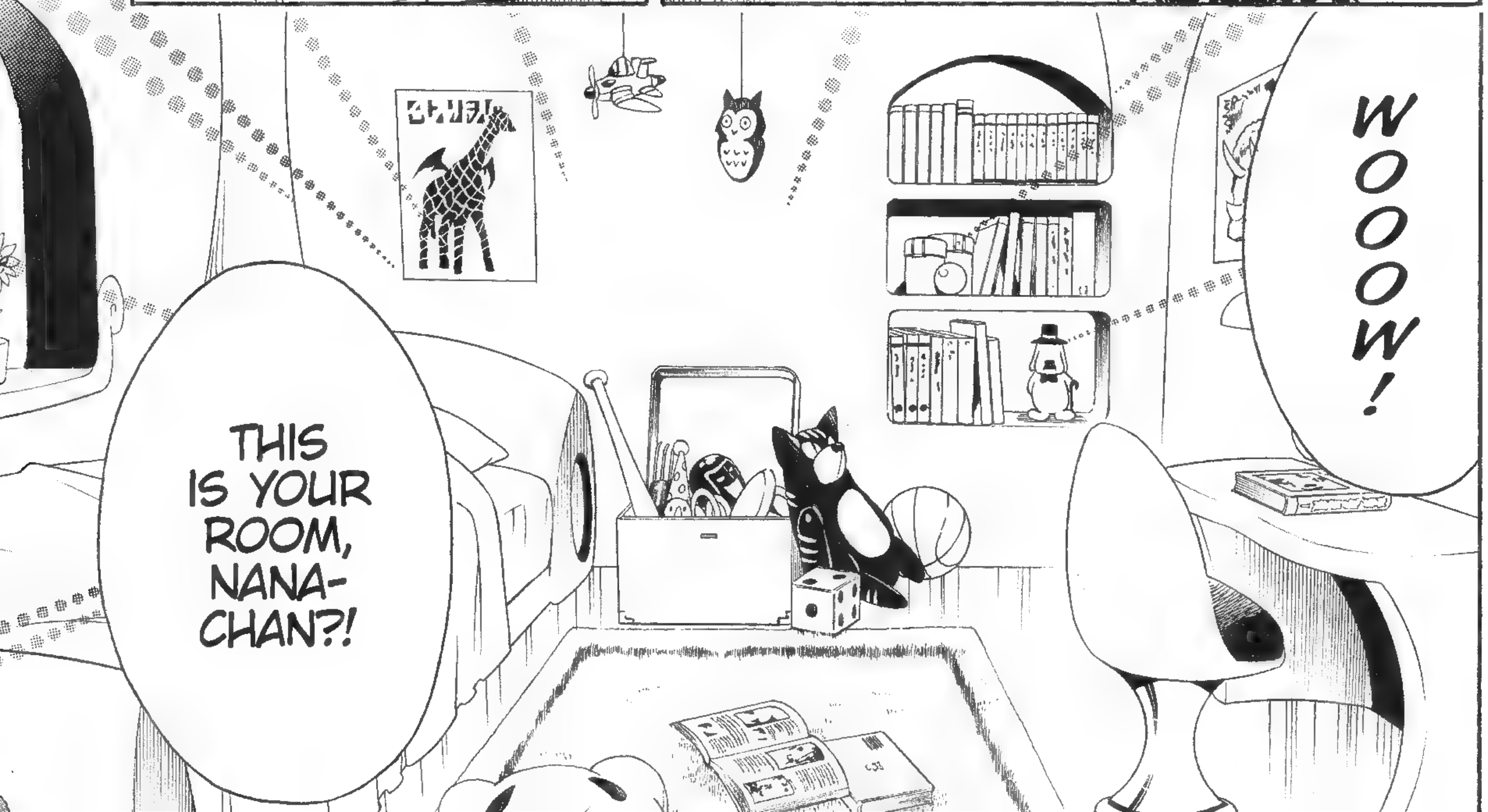
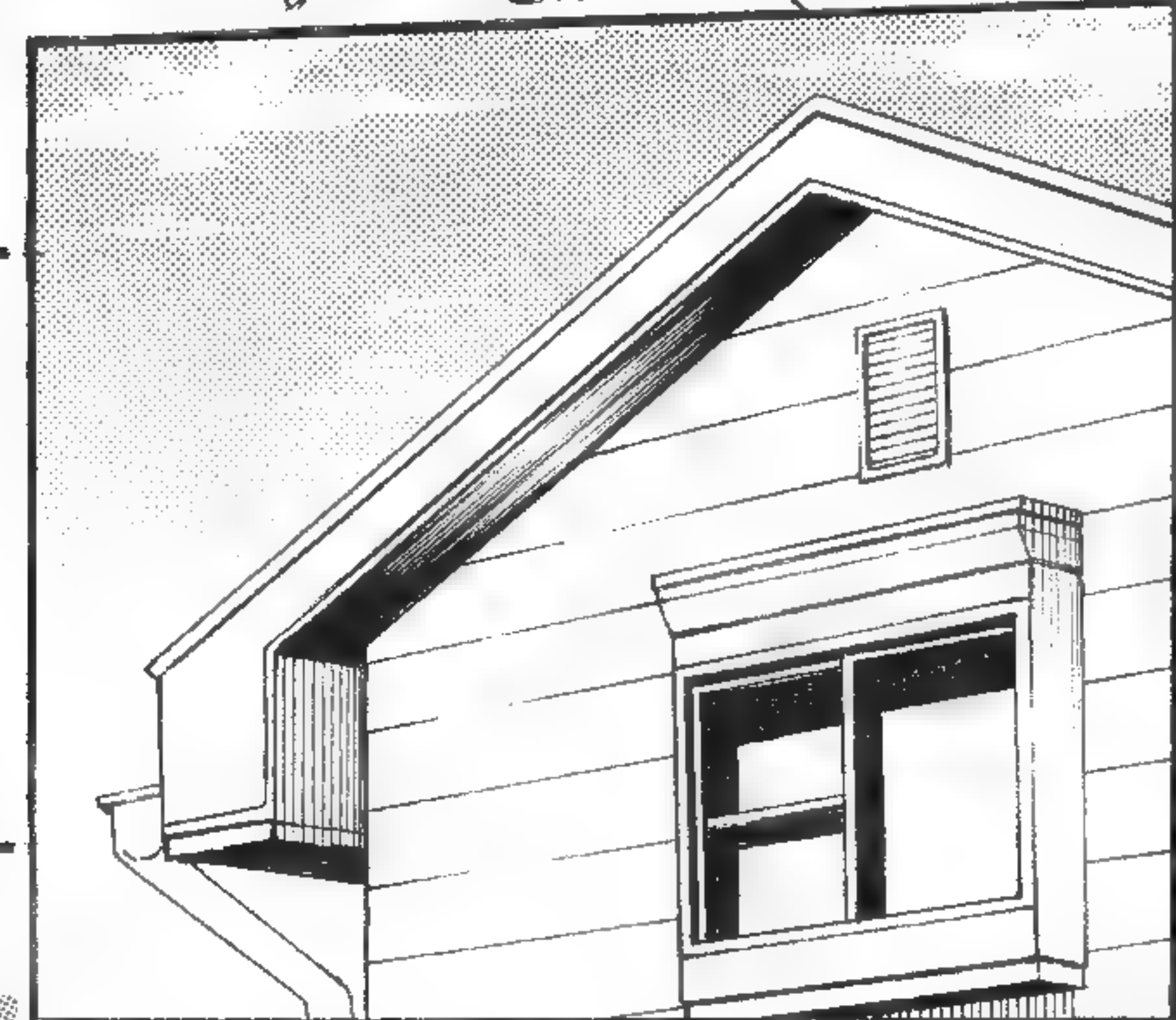


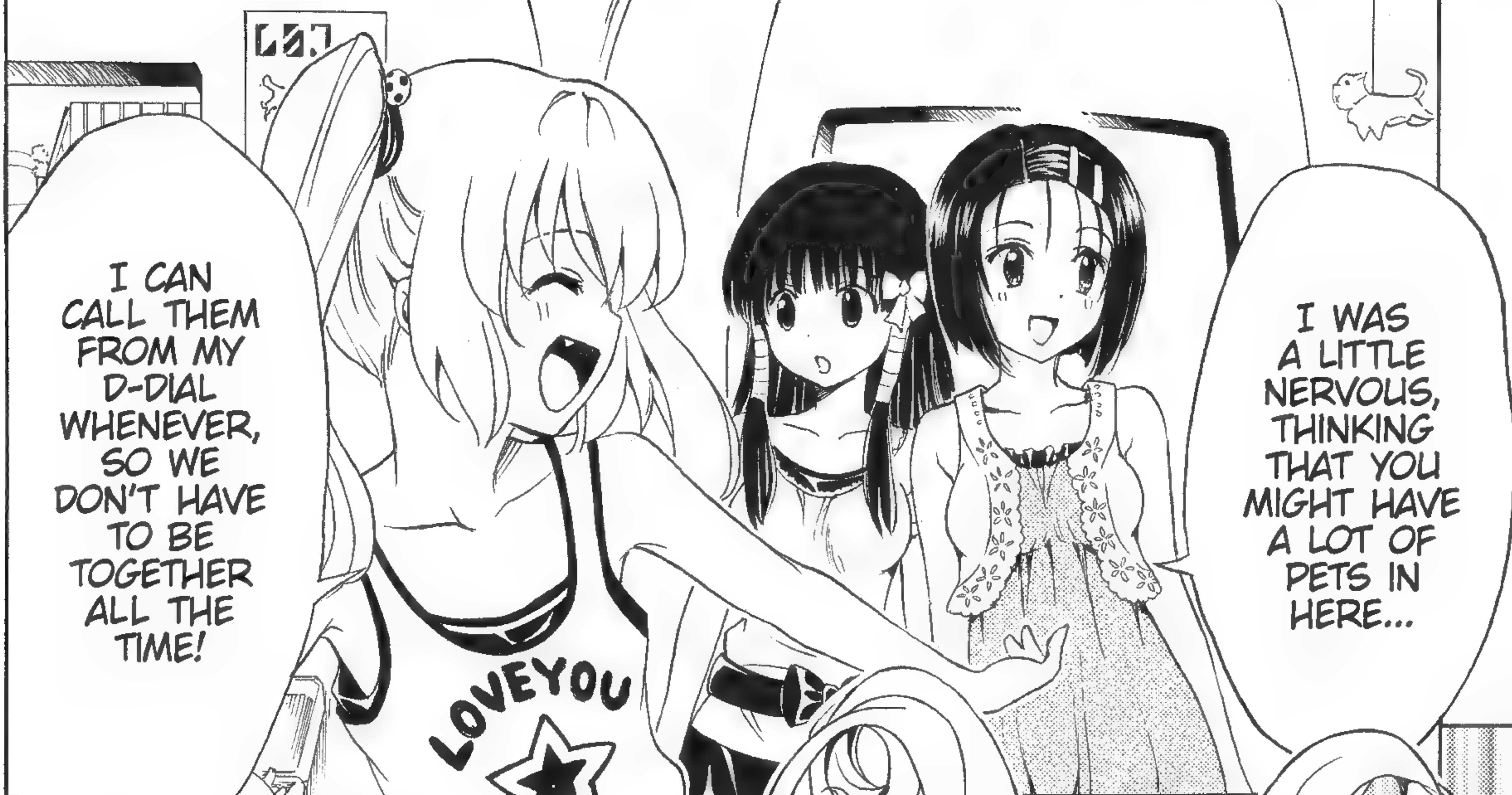
WH-
WHERE
ARE
WE
GOING
?!

HOLD
ON A
SECOND
THERE,
NANA-
CHAN!

AND
YOU
TWO
ARE
GONNA
HELP
ME!







I CAN
CALL THEM
FROM MY
D-DIAL
WHENEVER,
SO WE
DON'T HAVE
TO BE
TOGETHER
ALL THE
TIME!

I WAS
A LITTLE
NERVOUS,
THINKING
THAT YOU
MIGHT HAVE
A LOT OF
PETS IN
HERE...



I'VE BEEN
TRYING
A LOT OF
THINGS
MYSELF
LATELY, BUT
NONE OF
IT REALLY
WORKS...

I'M NOT
REALLY
SURE
THERE IS
ANYTHING...

NOW
THEN!

PUSHUPS
AND
STUFF,
FOR
EXAMPLE...

FWUMPH



DO
I?

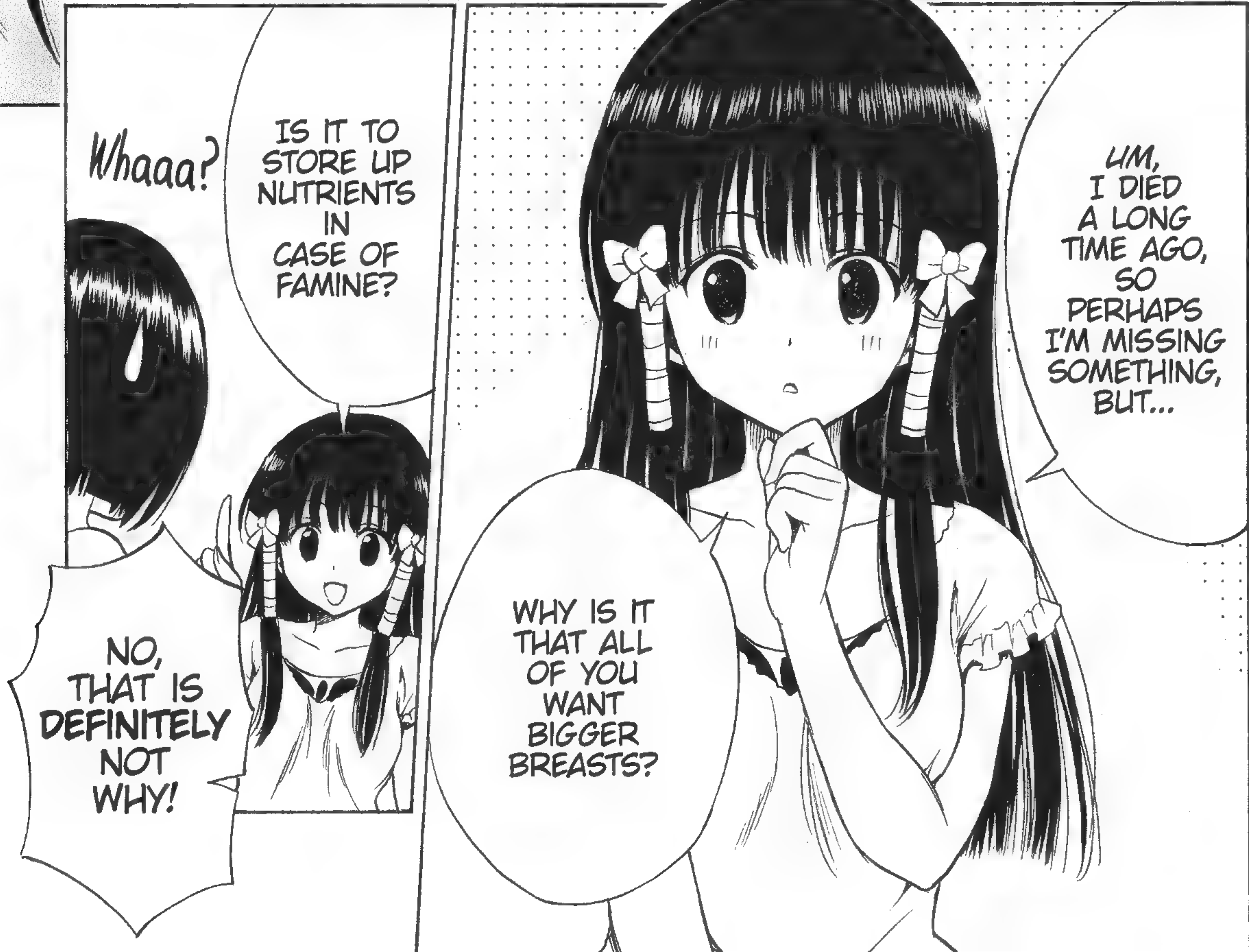
HUH?
BUT
YOU'VE
GOT
PRETTY
NORMAL
BOOBS.

THINK!
HOW
CAN I
MAKE MY
BOOBS
BIGGER?!



OH,
I
SEE!

WHEN I
LOOK AT
PEOPLE
AROUND ME,
LIKE
KOTEGAWA-
SAN OR
LALA-SAN...
I'M NOT SO
SURE.



Whaaa?

IS IT TO
STORE UP
NUTRIENTS
IN
CASE OF
FAMINE?

NO,
THAT IS
DEFINITELY
NOT
WHY!

WHY IS IT
THAT ALL
OF YOU
WANT
BIGGER
BREASTS?

UM,
I DIED
A LONG
TIME AGO,
SO
PERHAPS
I'M MISSING
SOMETHING,
BUT...



EVERYONE
ALWAYS
TREATS
MOMO LIKE
AN ADULT, BUT
THEN THEY
TREAT ME
LIKE A TOTAL
BABY!

EVEN
THOUGH
WE'RE TWINS!
IT'S GOTTA
BE BECAUSE
OF THE
DIFFERENCE
IN OUR BODY
TYPES!!

IS
BECAUSE
IT MAKES
YOU MORE
LIKE A
WOMAN!!

THE
REASON
...




LIKE, HOW
MIKADO-
SENSEI'S
BREASTS
ARE
EXTREMELY
BIG--AND IT
MAKES HER
SEEM VERY
GROWN-
UP!

RIGHT
?!



I GET IT!
IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU WANT
TO BE A
GROWN-UP
WOMAN!!

OH,
ERM...



IT'S GOOD
TO HAVE
SOMEONE
GROPE YOUR
BREASTS IF
YOU WANT
THEM TO GET
BIGGER!!

THAT
REMINDS
ME!
I HEARD
SOMETHING
RECENTLY
!!



HOW
ABOUT WE
HURRY UP
AND TRY
PUTTING
IT INTO
PRACTICE!

WHAT
?!

R...
REALLY
?!



PSHEW

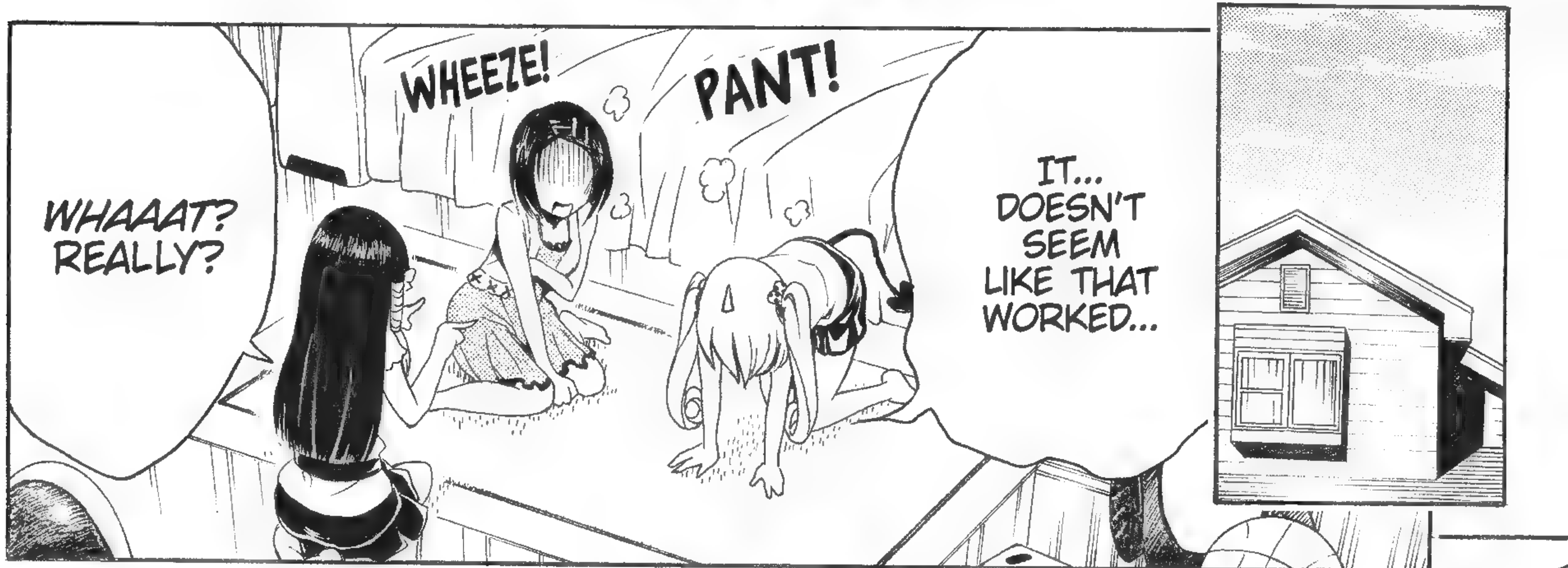
YAH!

I'LL
USE MY
TELEKINESIS
TO HELP
YOU
OUT!

LOVE YOU







A SIMPLE
METHOD TO
INCREASE
BLUST
SIZE IS TO
USE AN
OCKTOPLUS...

HRR-
RMM?

YEAH,
BUT I'M
NOT
GREAT
WITH IT,
SO I DON'T
USE IT
MUCH...

THERE'S
A SPACE
INTERNET,
TOO...?

I'M
FRIENDS
WITH ONE,
SO I'LL
CALL HIM
ON THE
D-DIAL.

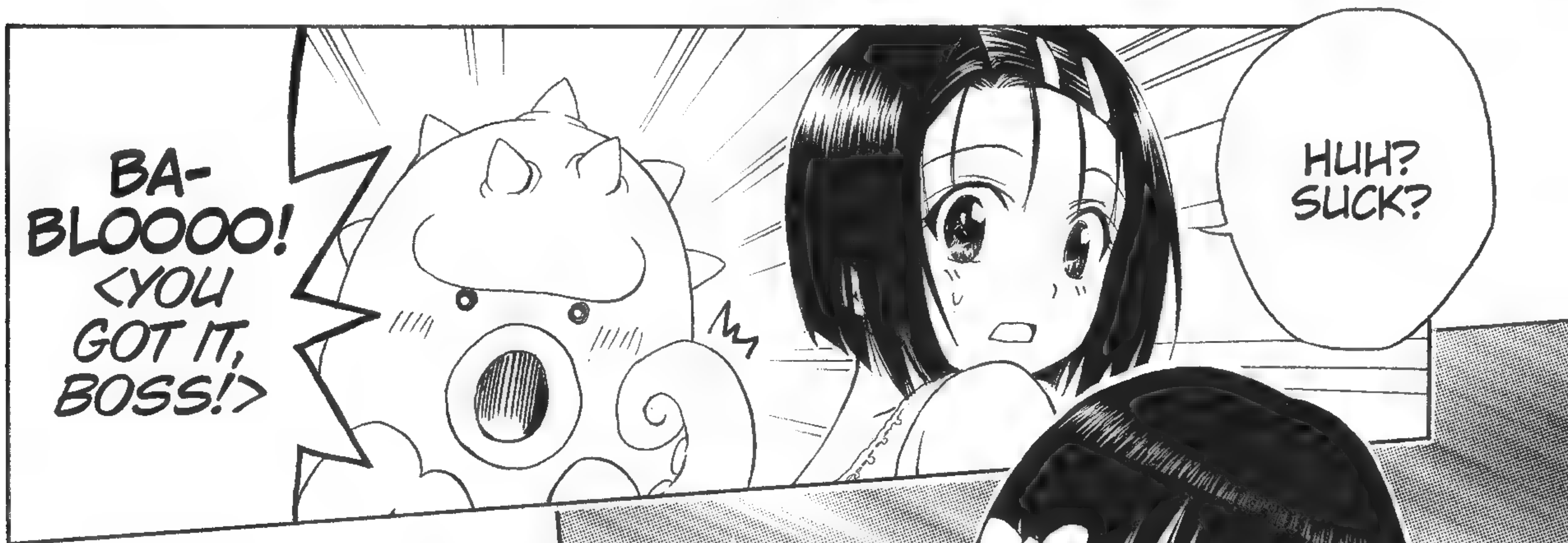
BOOP

YES, IT'S
A LAND-
DWELLING
BREED OF
OCTOPUS THAT
LIVES ON
THE PLANET
OCTANT.

AN
OCKTO-
PLUS?

BLUB
BLUB!

HE'S
AN
OCKTOPLUS
CALLED
OCTO!









OF ALL
THE
RIDICU-
LOUS...

BA-DMP
BA-DMP

OPERA-
TION
EMBOO-
BENING,
MY
FOOT.

RUSTLE



NH!
HNN-
NGH!

TAATAA

CLATTER

CLONK



WELP,
TIME
TO GO
GET
DINNER
READY!

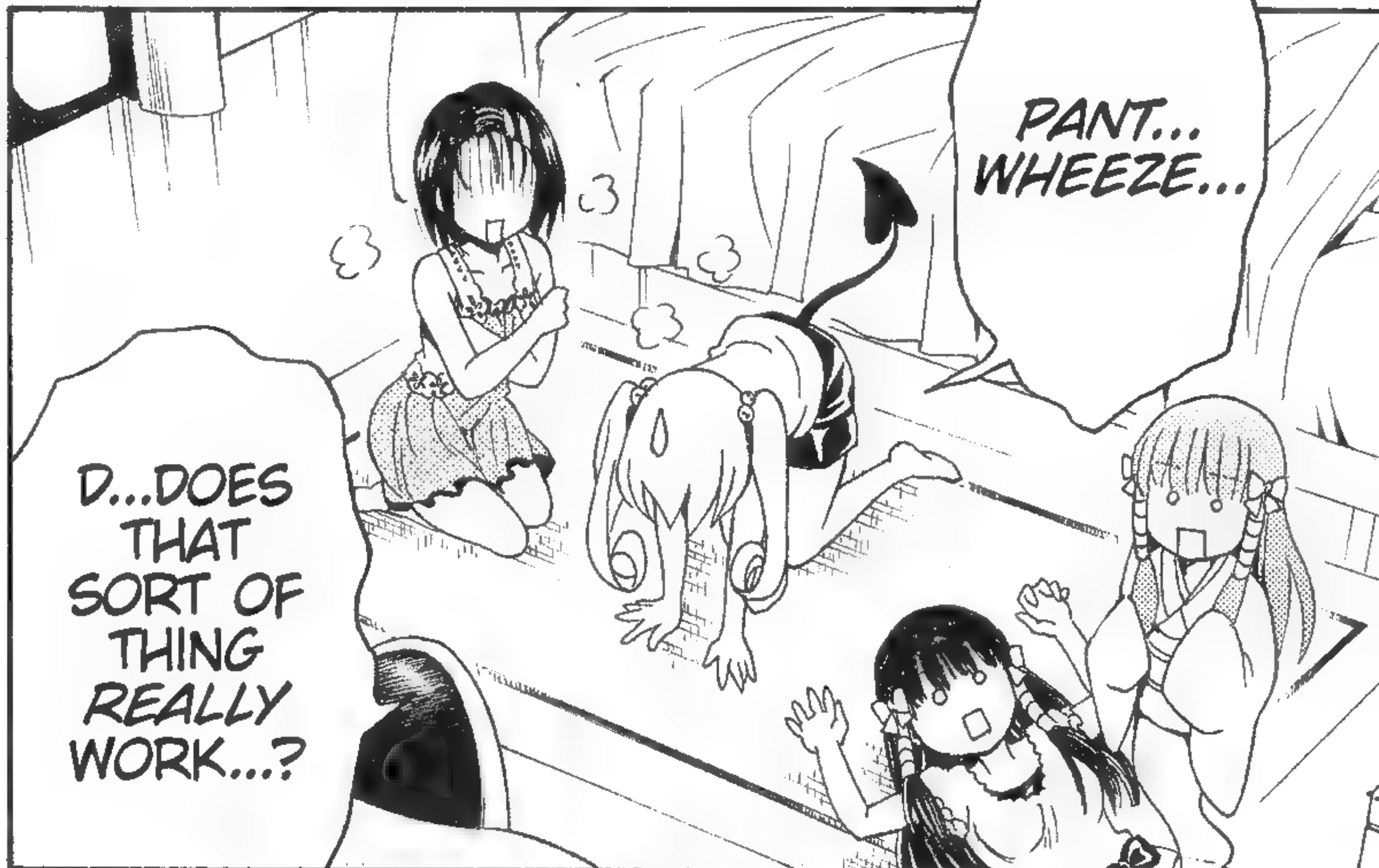


GOOD
THING
I HELD
OFF
ON
THAT!



NA...
NANA-
CHAN...

THIS IS
JUST A
THOUGHT,
BUT...



PANT...
WHEEZE...

D...DOES
THAT
SORT OF
THING
REALLY
WORK...?



WHAT?!
WHY
NOT?!



I'M
THINKING
YOU CAN'T
FORCE
YOUR
BOOBS
TO GET
BIGGER.



IT'S NOT
WHAT'S
ON THE
OUTSIDE,
BUT WHAT'S
ON THE
INSIDE THAT
MATTERS.

I GET THAT
TONS OF
PEOPLE
AROUND HERE
HAVE SUCH
LARGE BUSTS.
THAT'S WHAT
MADE ME
A LITTLE TOO
WORRIED
ABOUT MY
OWN.

BUT I JUST
REMEMBERED
SOMETHING
THAT
A CERTAIN
SOMEBODY
SAID TO
ME ONCE...



THAT'S WHY
I THINK YOU
SHOULDN'T
TRY TO PUSH
THINGS TOO FAR.
JUST TRY
TO IMPROVE
YOURSELF
AS YOU ARE,
AND THAT'LL
BE ENOUGH.

AND
OTHER
PEOPLE
SAY
THINGS
LIKE
THAT,
TOO.



YEP.

DID
RITO
SAY
THAT?



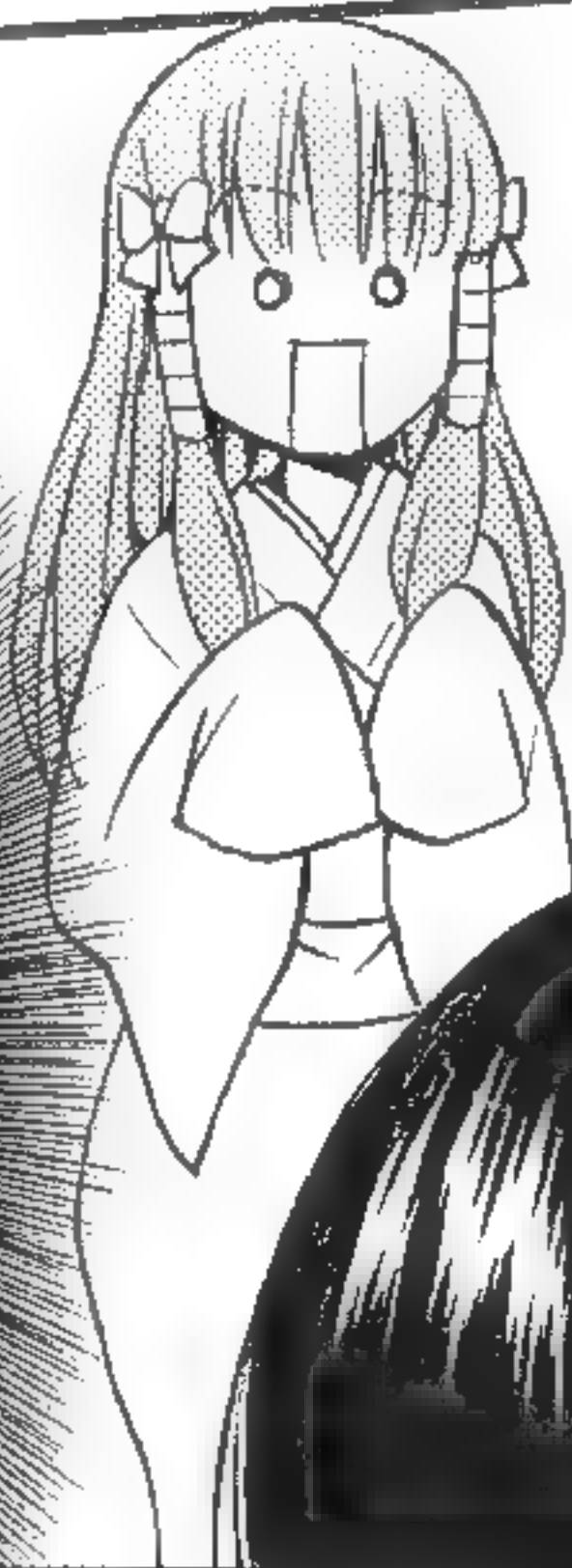
I GET
IT,
HARUNA.

RITO...

I GUESS
SOME
PEOPLE
DO THINK
THAT WAY,
TOO.



SHE
DOESN'T
GET
IT AT
ALL...

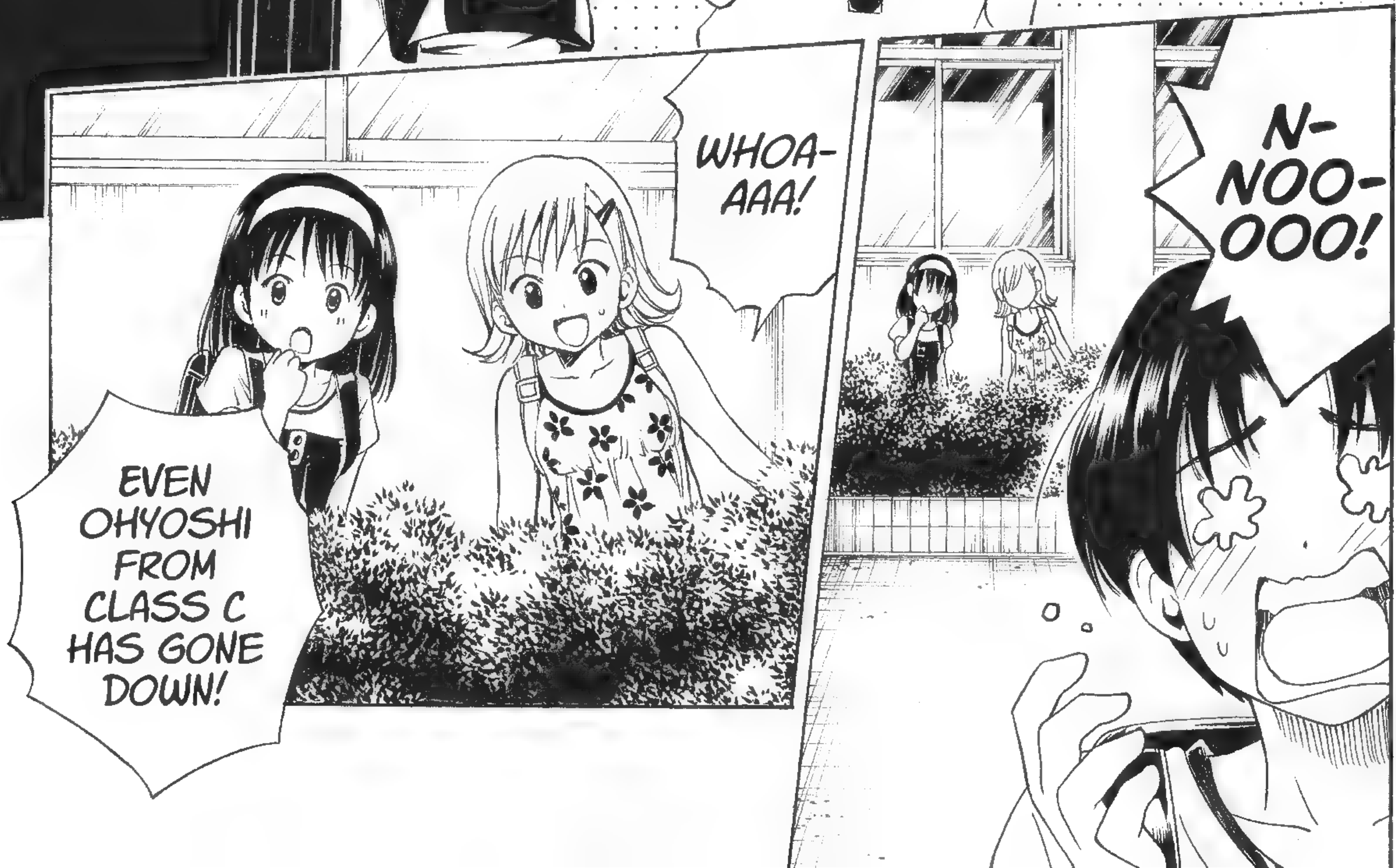
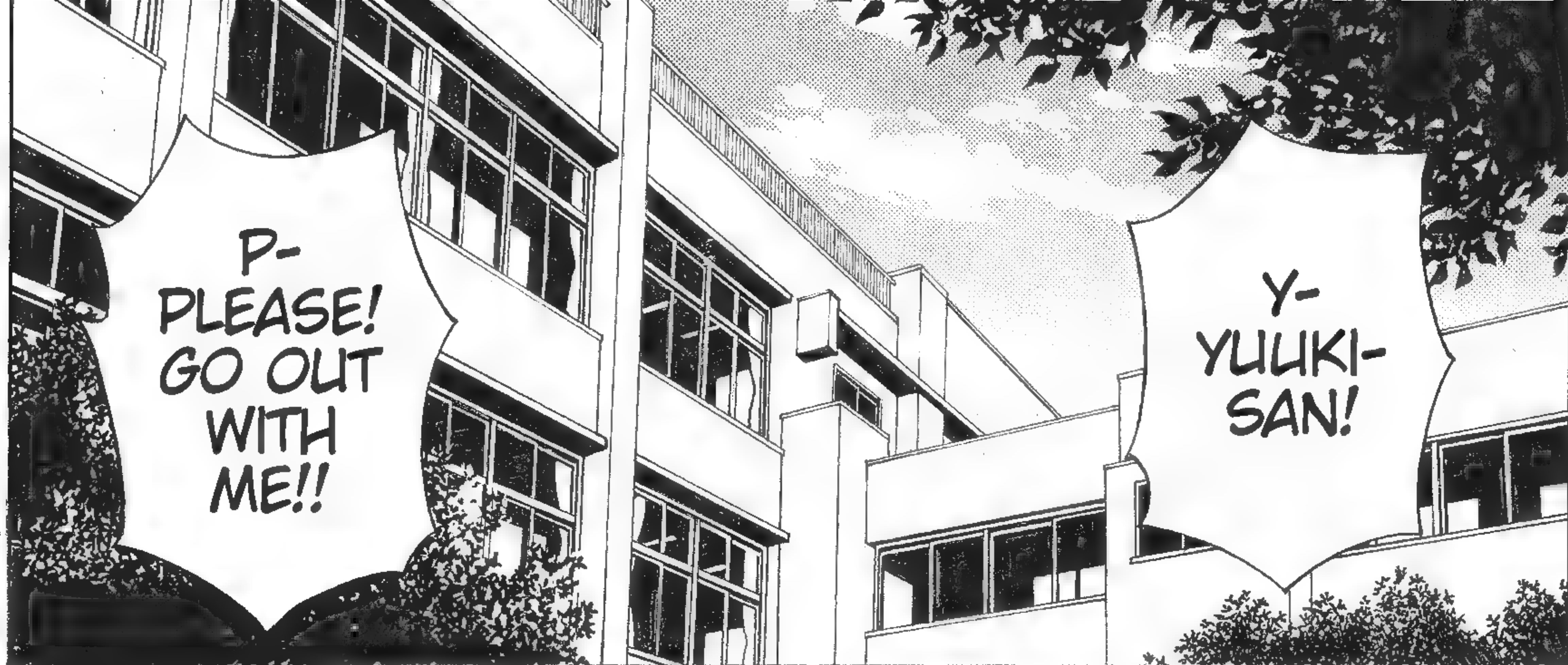


!!



I'LL
IMPROVE
MY
APPEARANCE
AND
WHAT'S
INSIDE!
THAT'S
IT!!

TO LOVERU





HUH?
WELL,
I'M JUST
NOT THAT
INTERESTED
IN THAT
STUFF.

MIKAN-CHAN,
YOU'RE SO
POPULAR
WITH THE
BOYS!
WHY IS IT YOU
STILL DON'T
HAVE A
BOYFRIEND?

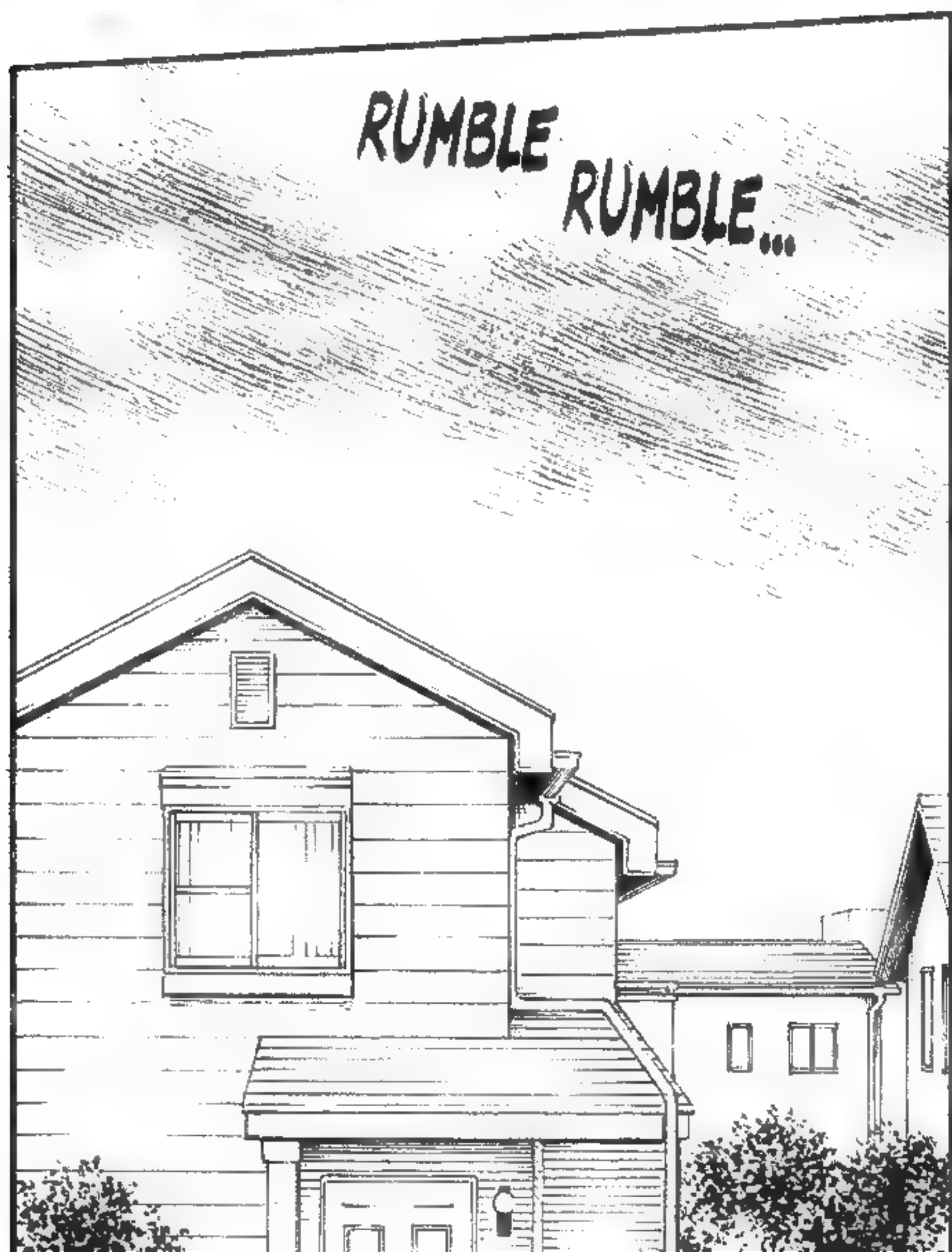


WHEN
YOU
GET SO
DEFENSIVE,
WE
HAVE TO
WONDER~!
♪

WHA?!
HOW
DO YOU
GET
THAT?!



IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU
ALREADY
HAVE SUCH
A GREAT
BIG
BROTHER.



RUMBLE
RUMBLE...



WH-
WHEN
DID I
EVER
SAY HE
WAS SO
GREAT
?!

WHAT
IS IT
ABOUT
HIM THAT
MAKES
HIM SO
GREAT?

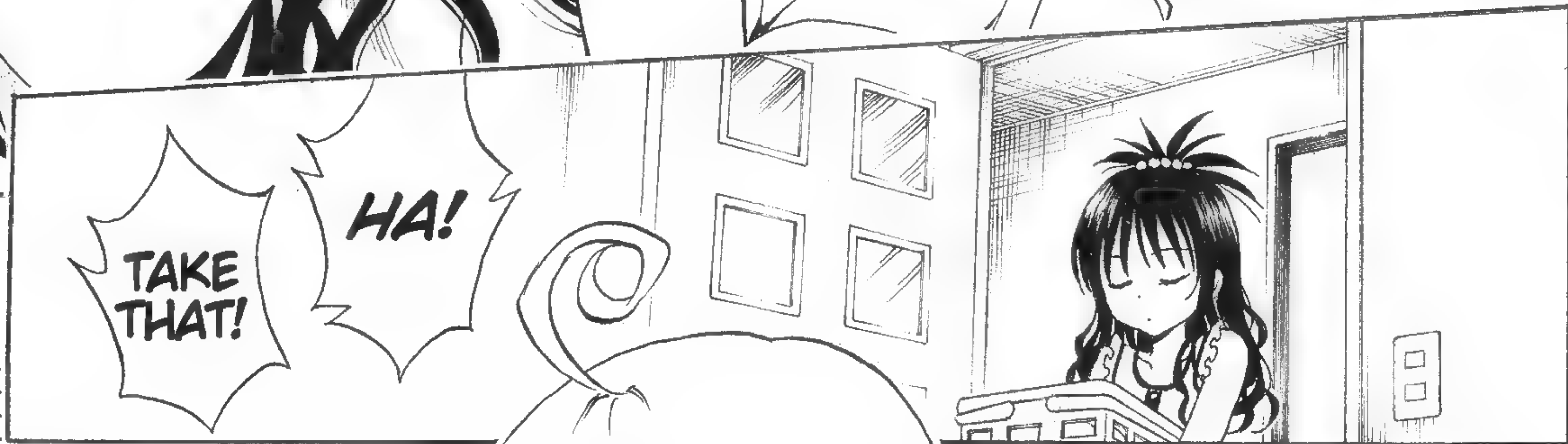
YOU
GOTTA
LET US
SEE HIM
SOME-
TIME.



THEY
THINK
MY
BROTHER'S
SO
GREAT,
HUH?



HUFF...



TAKE
THAT!

HA!



SIS,
GIVE
ME A
TURN!

RITO
BEAT
ME
AGAIIN!



AAAGN!

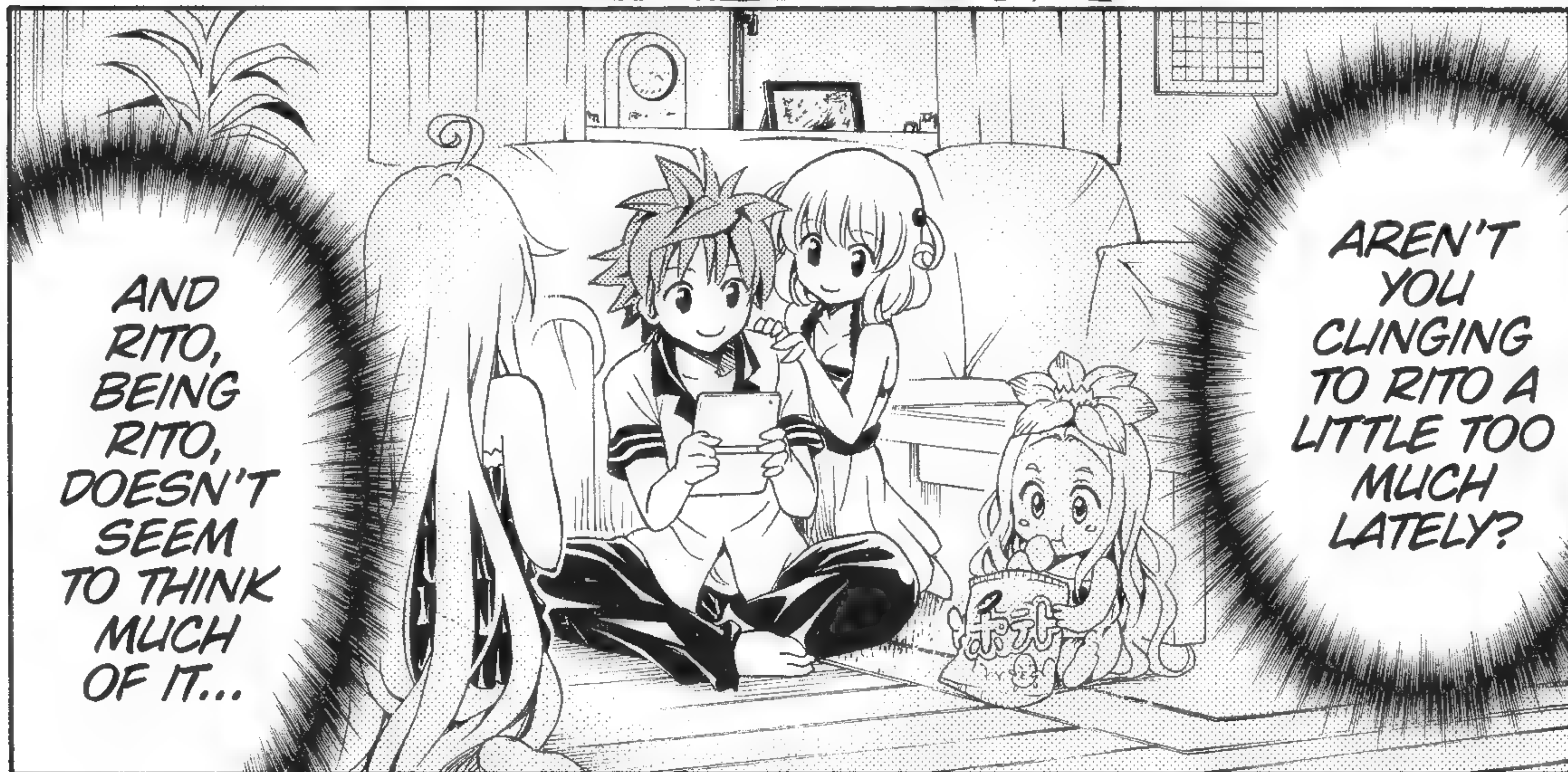


HEH
HEH!
I'M
PRETTY
DECENT
AT
GAMES.

RITO,
YOUR
TECHNIQUE
IS
AMAZING.
♡



MOMO-
SAN...



AND
RITO,
BEING
RITO,
DOESN'T
SEEM
TO THINK
MUCH
OF IT...

AREN'T
YOU
CLINGING
TO RITO A
LITTLE TOO
MUCH
LATELY?

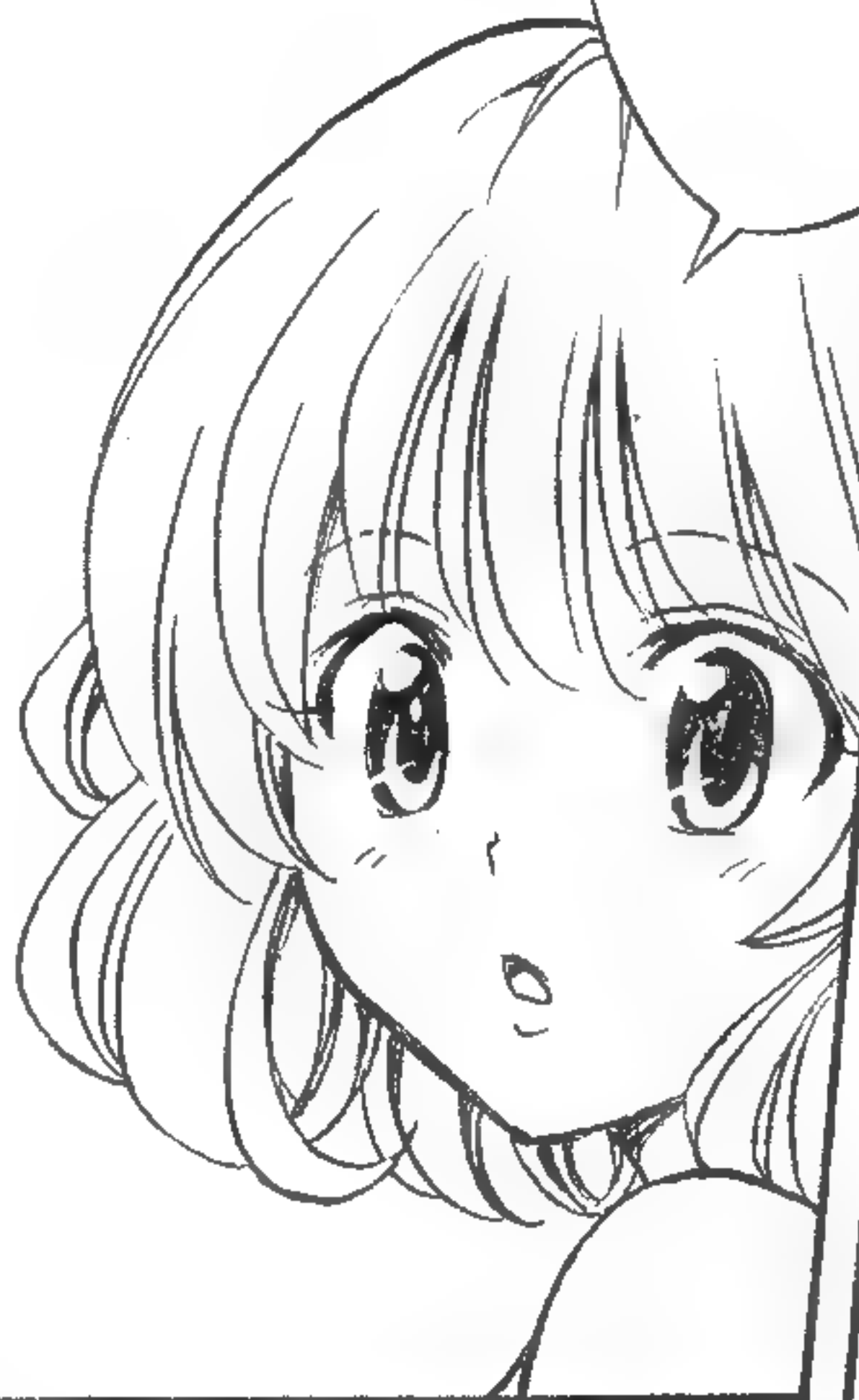


HUH?

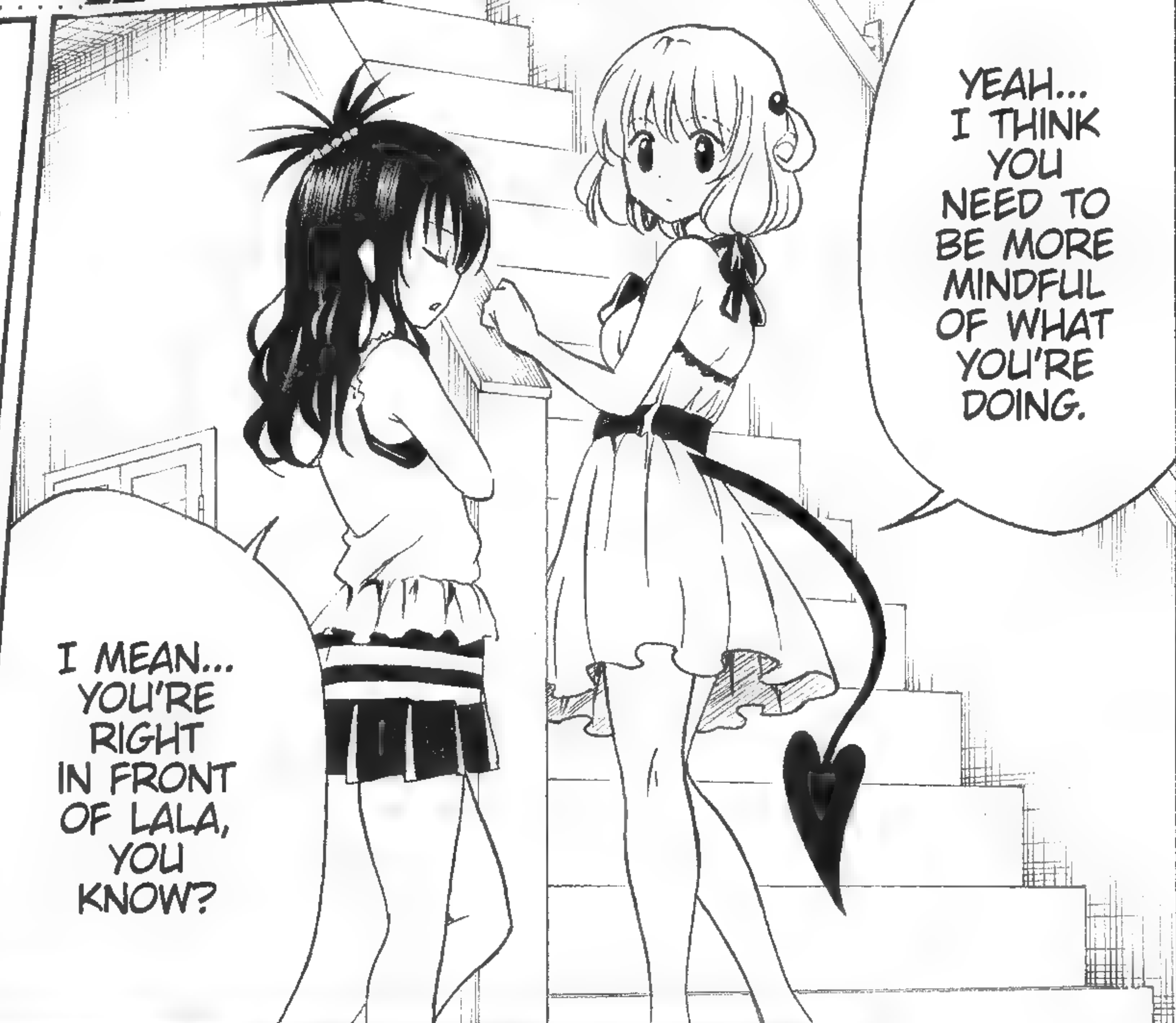


YOU
THINK
I NEED
TO KEEP
MORE
DISTANCE
FROM
RITO-
SAN?

HMM...



I MEAN...
YOU'RE
RIGHT
IN FRONT
OF LALA,
YOU
KNOW?



YEAH...
I THINK
YOU
NEED TO
BE MORE
MINDFUL
OF WHAT
YOU'RE
DOING.



MAKES
ME
WONDER
WHAT
YOU'RE
UP TO...



ALSO,
MOMO-SAN,
HAVEN'T
YOU BEEN
SNEAKING
INTO RITO'S
ROOM
AT NIGHT
SOMETIMES?



HUH?
?!



WHY
DON'T
YOU
JUST
JOIN IN,
MIKAN-
SAN?

OH,
YOU
KNEW
ABOUT
THAT?



I'M SORRY.
YOU KNOW
HOW IT IS
AT NIGHT.
SOMETIMES
I JUST
GET INTO
RITO-SAN'S
FUTON BY
ACCIDENT.



pat

TEE
HEE
HEE!
♡
I'M JUST
KIDDING.
♡

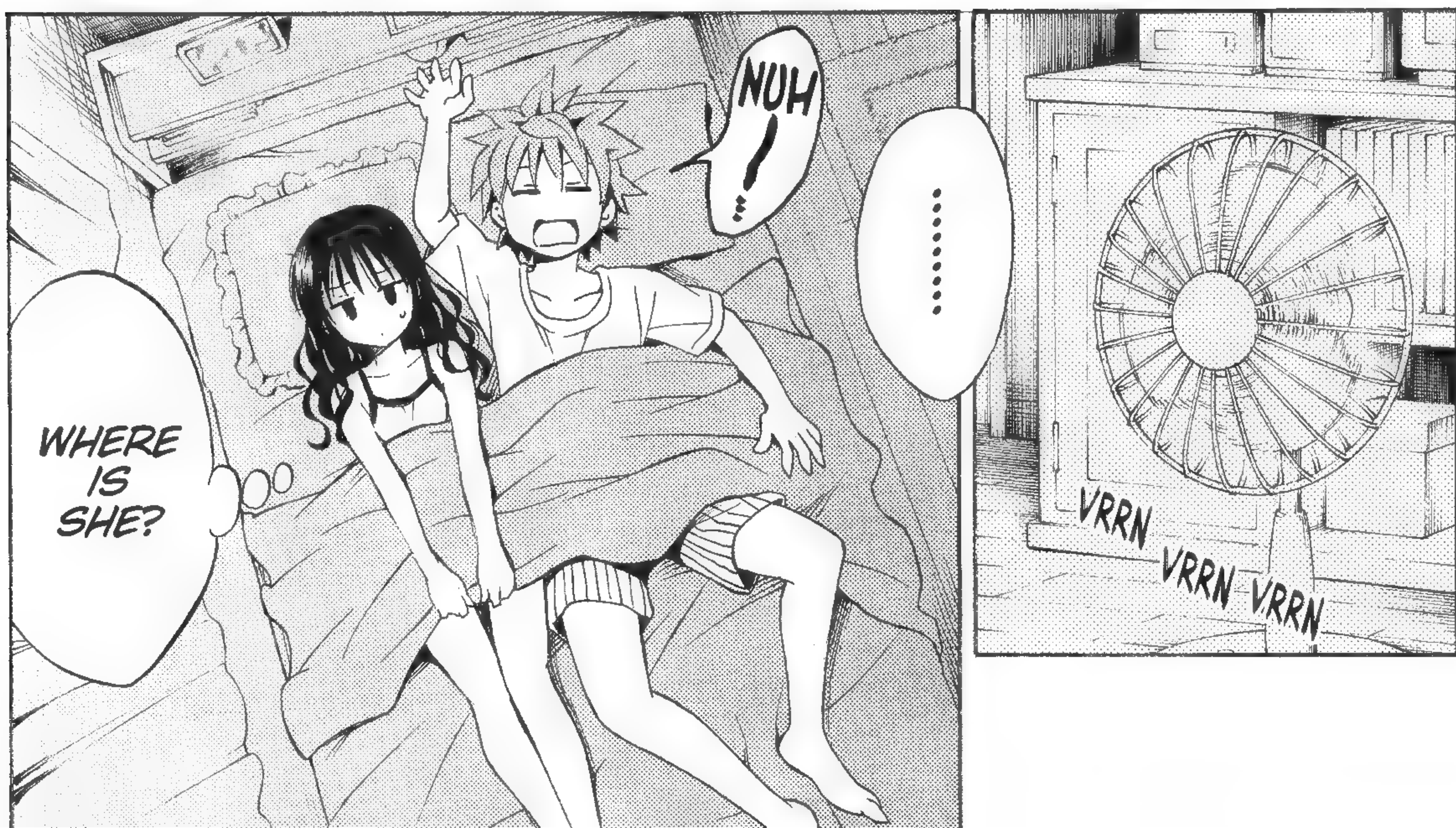


THAT...
WAS
NOT
CONVINC-
ING AT
ALL!!



I'LL
TRY
TO DO
BETTER
NEXT
TIME.
♡











MRR...
THAT
MARSHMAL-
LOW
LOOKS SO
YUMMY...

IT'S--
IT'S
NOT A
MARSH-
MALLOW!



SLIP



SQUISH

SQUISH



RITO...

RI...



THAT'S
TOO
MUCH!!

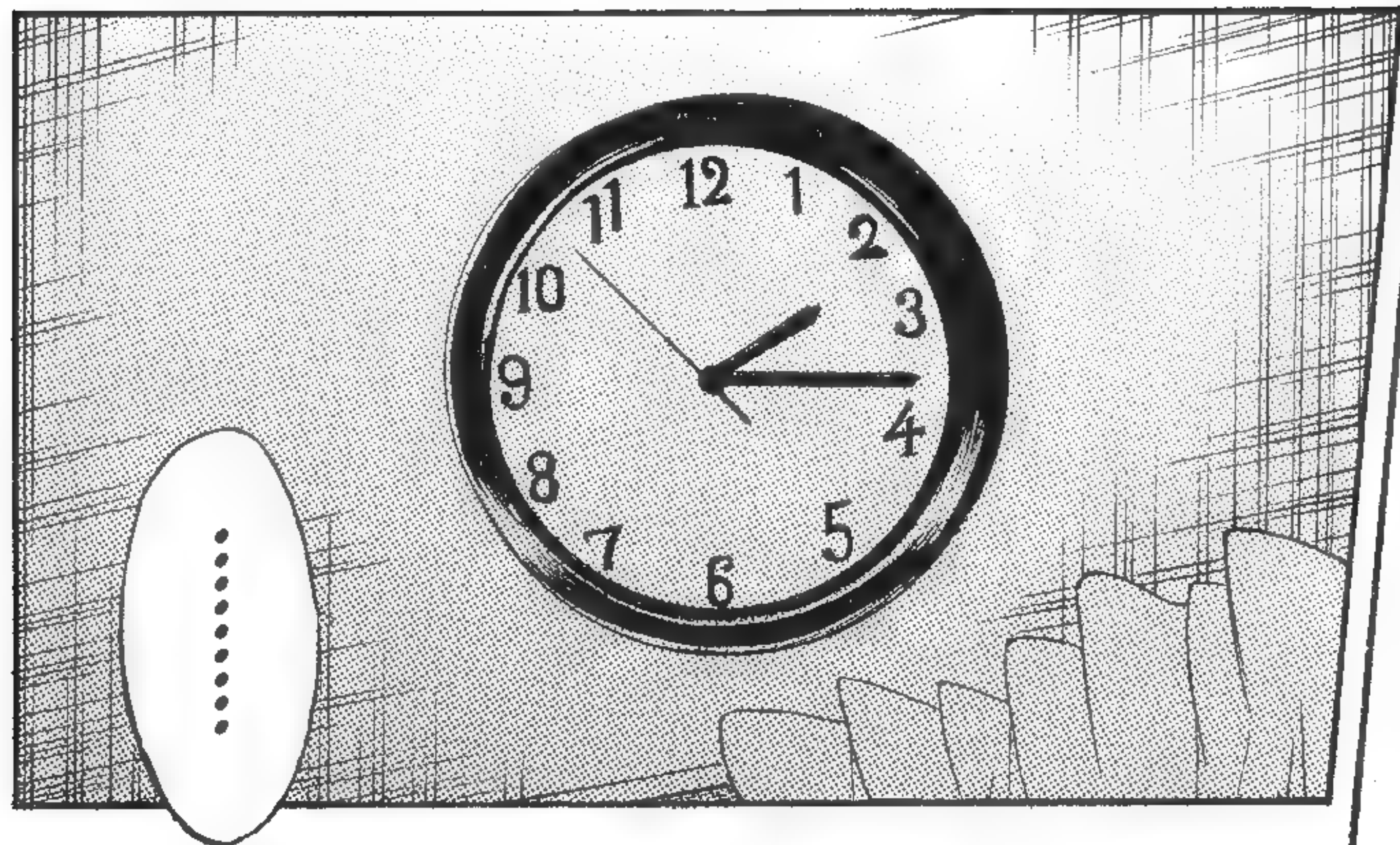


GOOD
GRIEF...



EEEEH!
THE
MARSH-
MALLOW
BIT
ME...!

Unghhh!



WHAT
AM I
EVEN
DOING?

IT DOESN'T
LOOK
LIKE MOMO-
SAN'S
COMING...
MAYBE I
SHOULD
JUST GO
BACK TO MY
ROOM...



ゴ!! RUMBLE
RUMBLE...ゴ!!
...

L-
LIGHT-
NING
?!

EEK!



FLASH



NGHHH...
I'M NOT
GOOD WITH
THUNDER-
STORMS
AT NIGHT.



MM...



RITO!



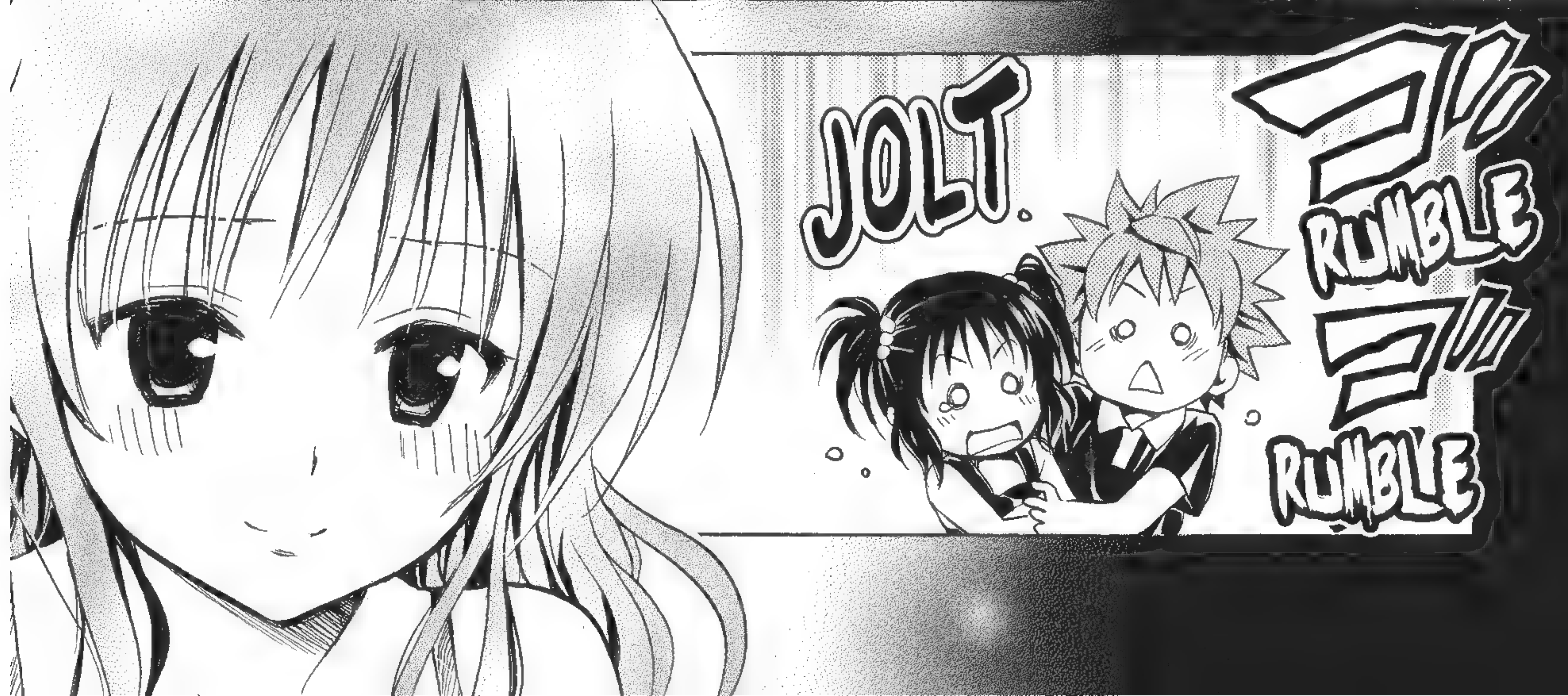
YOU'RE
STILL
SCARED...
OF
THUNDER
...?

NGH...
MIKAN...



THIS
HAPPENED
BEFORE, A
LONG TIME
AGO...

THAT'S
RIGHT...



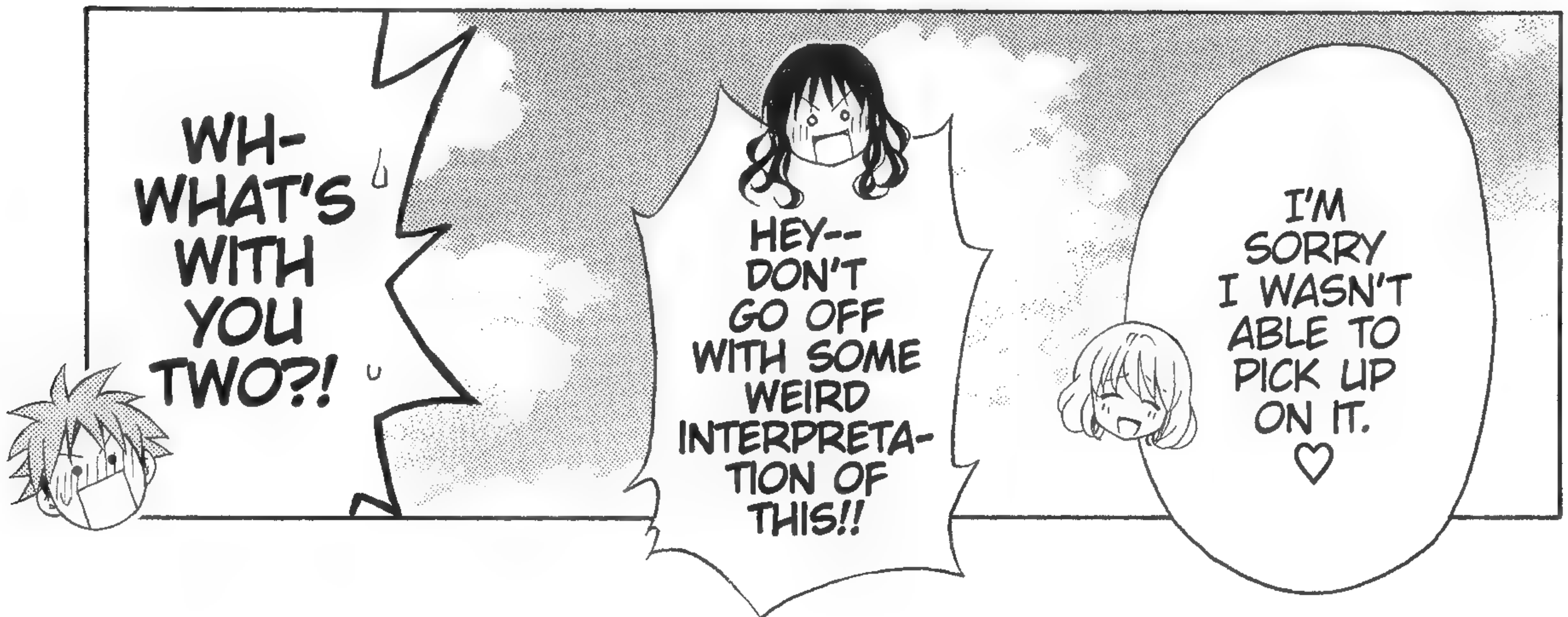
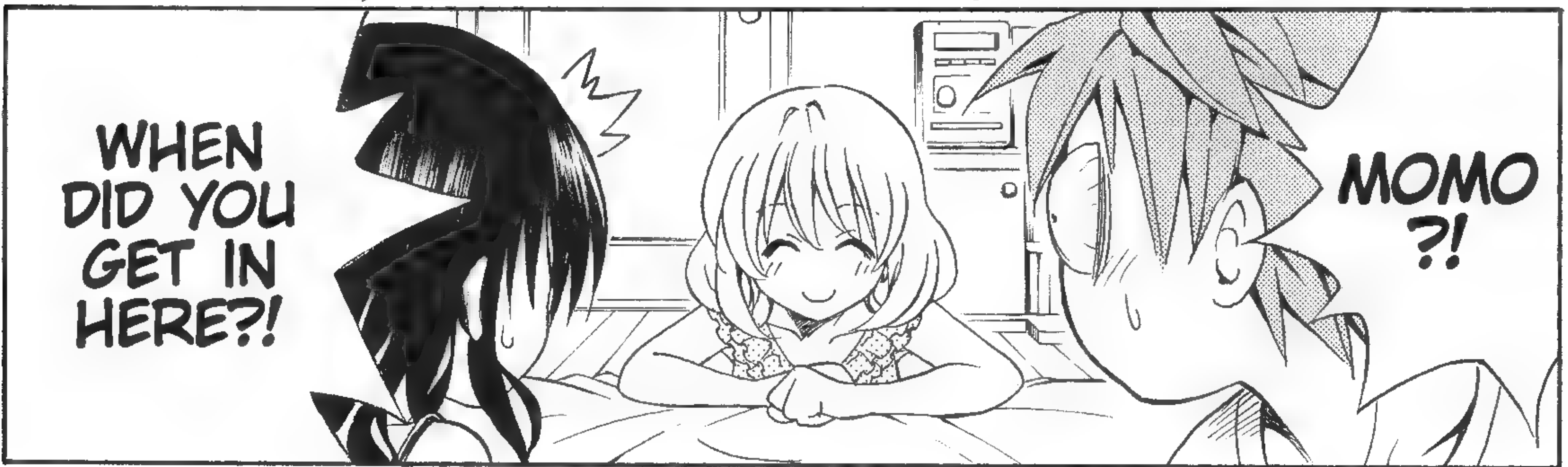
RITO...
SMELLS
THE
SAME
AS HE
ALWAYS
DID..!

IT
CALMS
ME
DOWN...

HH SHAAAAAAA...
P P P P P...

CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP...





TO LOVERU

TRouble 158:
A LOVE MOST FALSE?

THERE IS A
TAIYAKI
STAND THAT
I HIGHLY
RECOMMEND.

I
SHALL
TREAT
YOU,
YULKI
RITO.

COME
WITH
ME.

WELL,
THANKS...

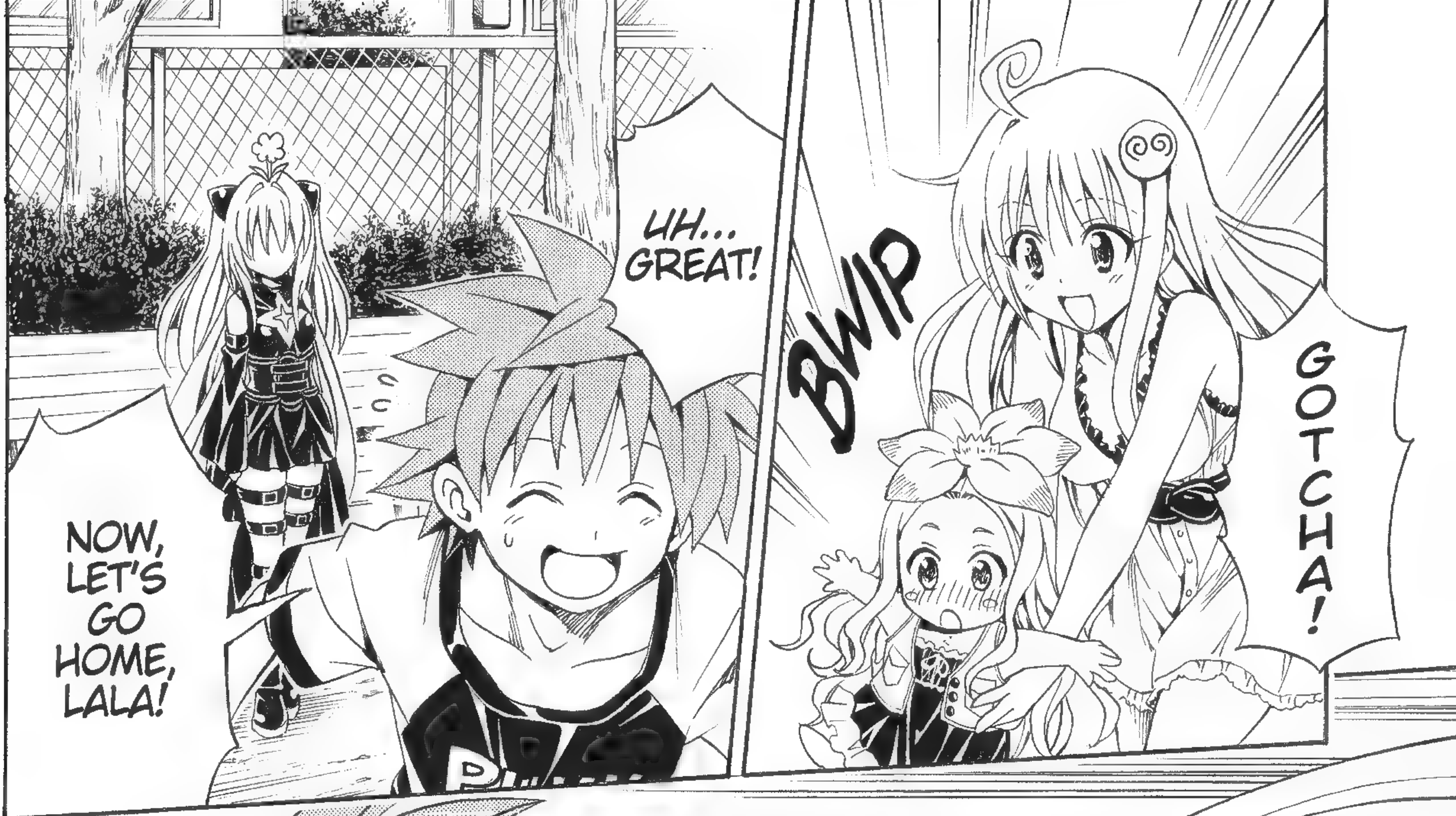
UH...

H-HOW
DID
THIS
HAPPEN?

NGH...
ISN'T
THIS KIND
OF LIKE
ME AND
YAMI
GOING ON
A DATE?







NOW,
LET'S
GO
HOME,
LALA!

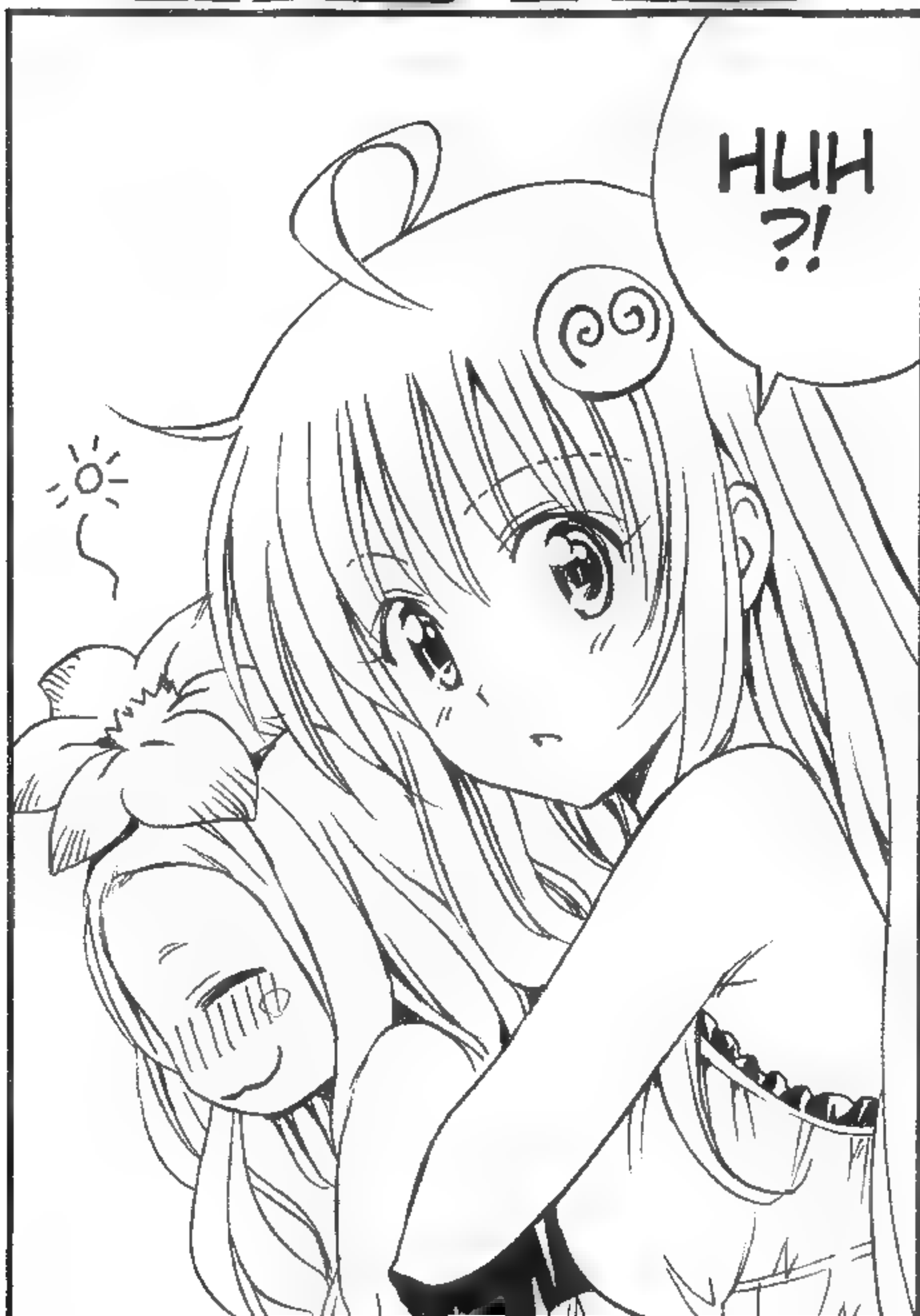
UH...
GREAT!

BWIP

GOTCHA!



GA-SHRRK

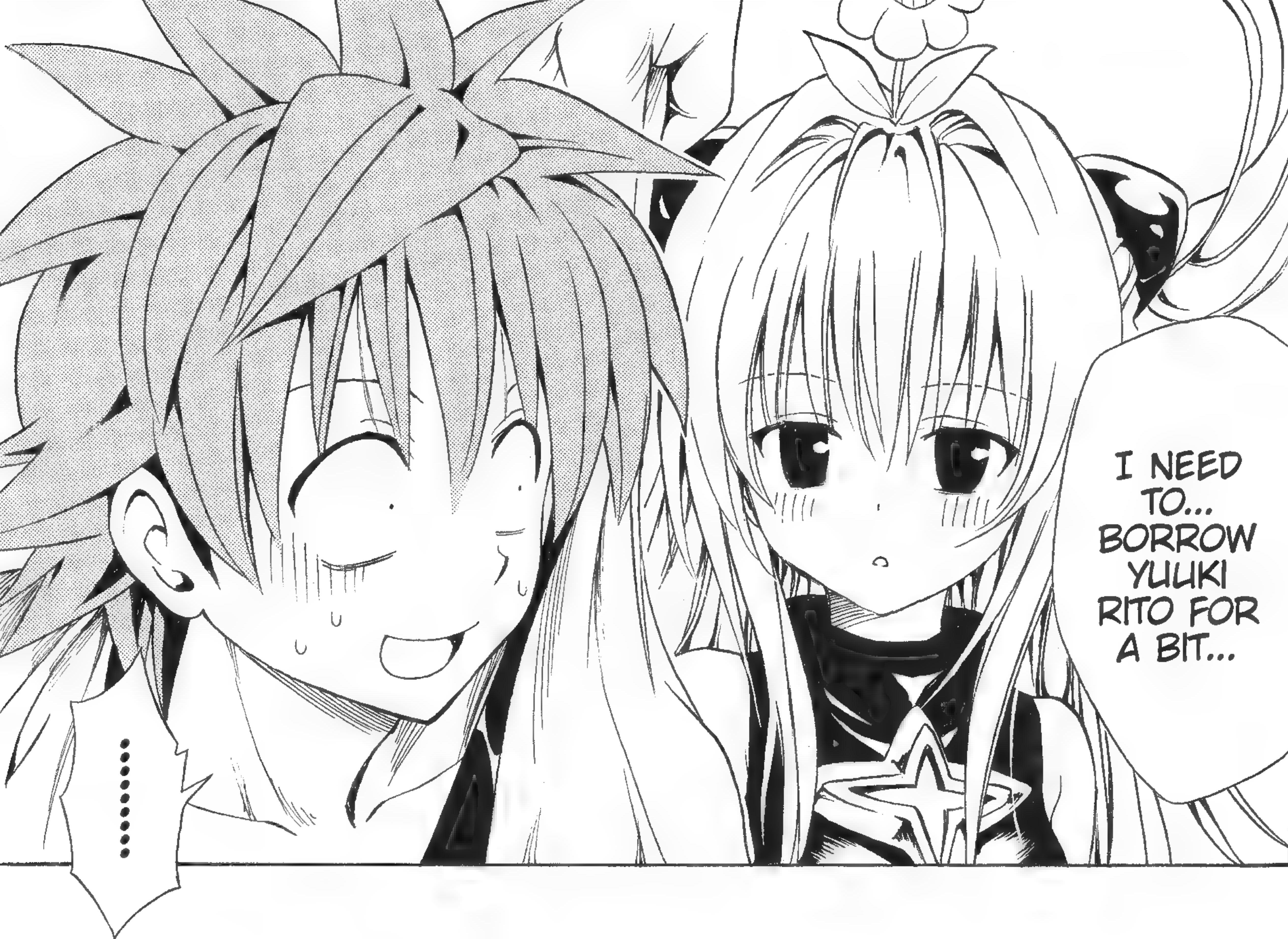


HUH
?!

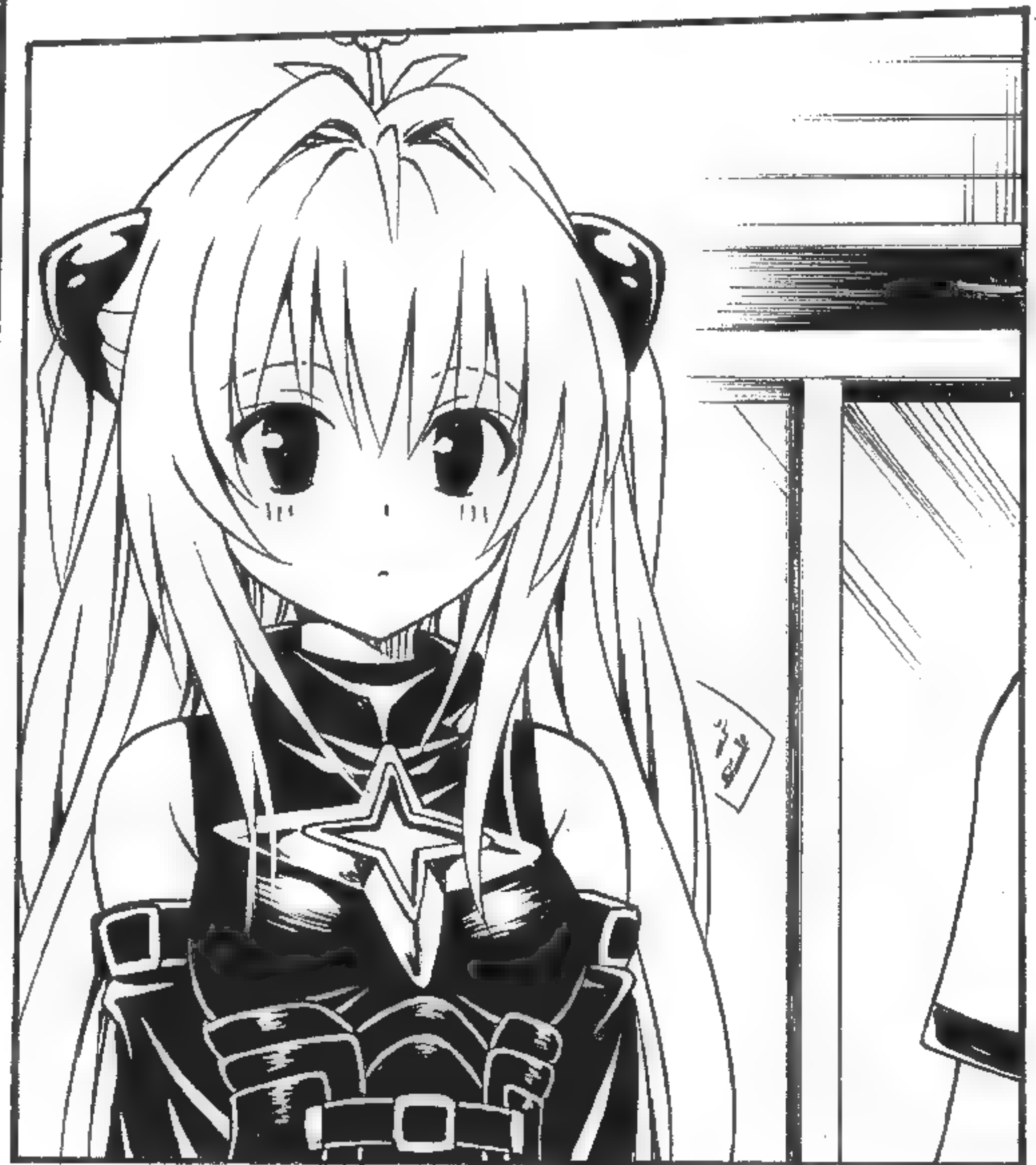
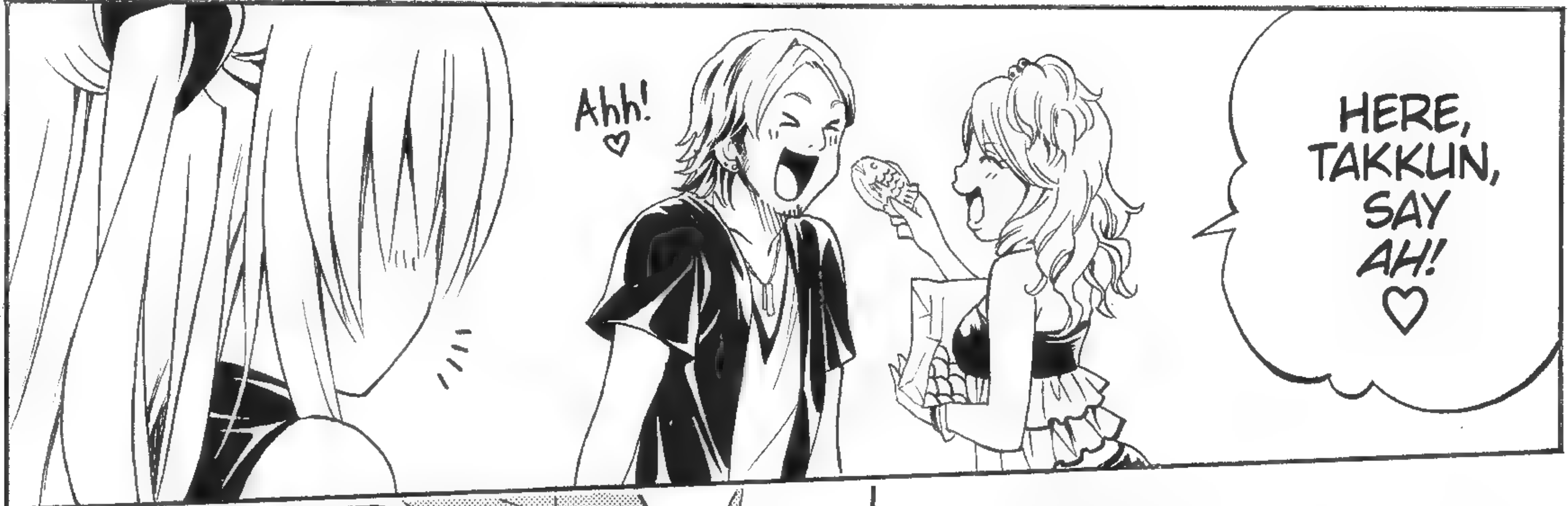


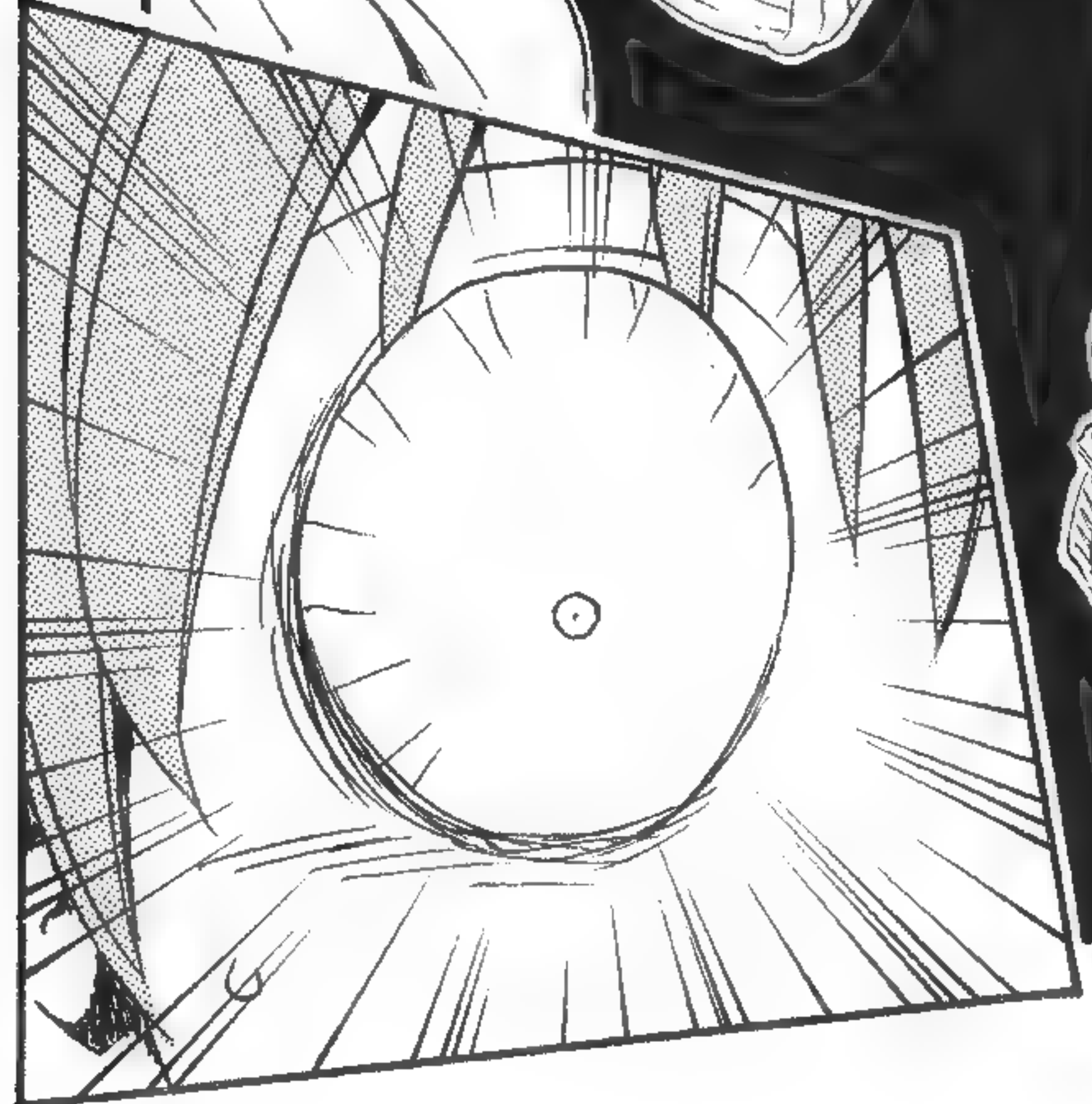
PLEASE
GO ON
HOME...

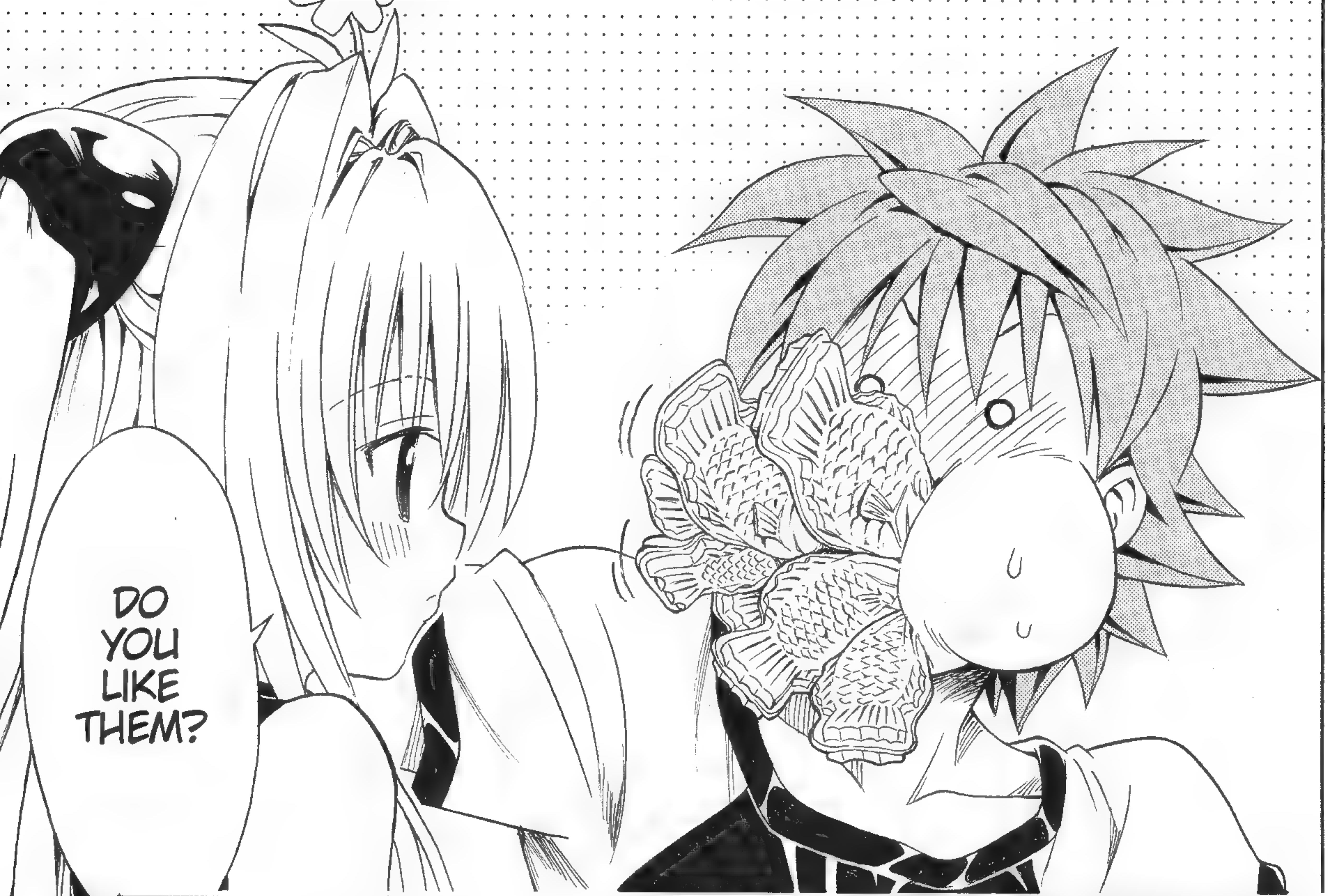
PRIN-
CESS...

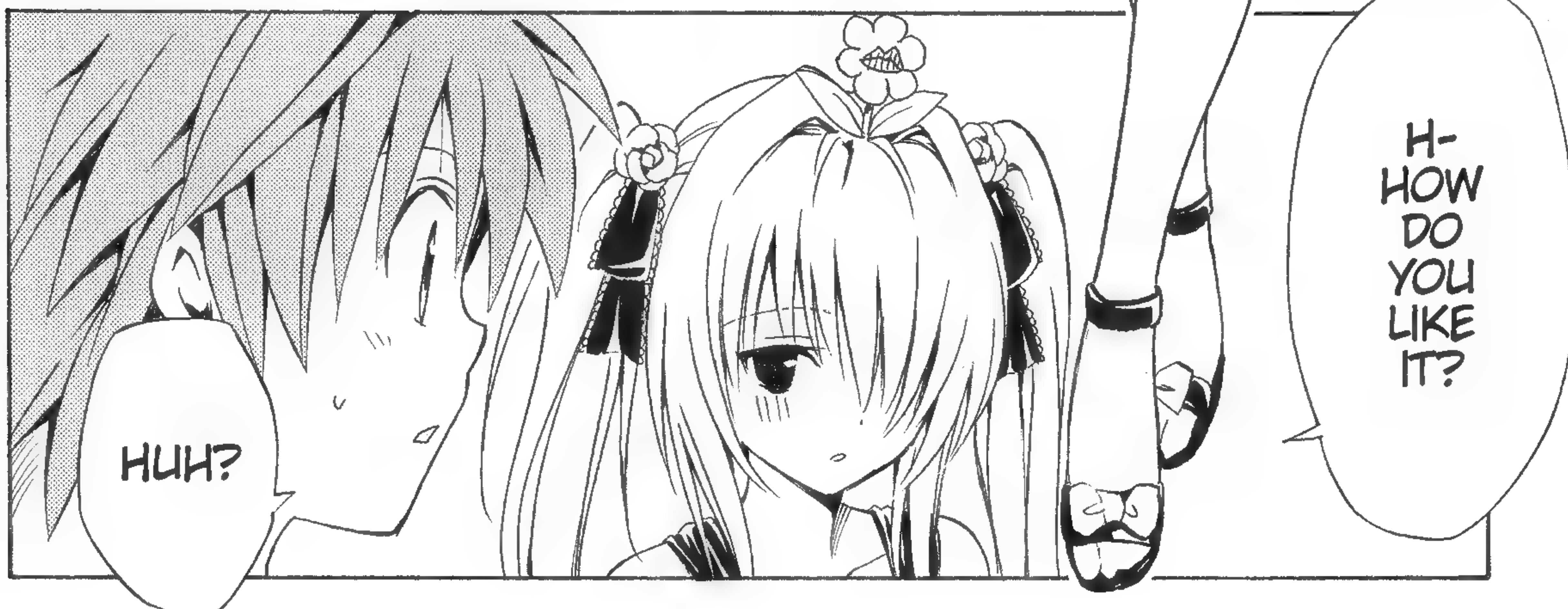
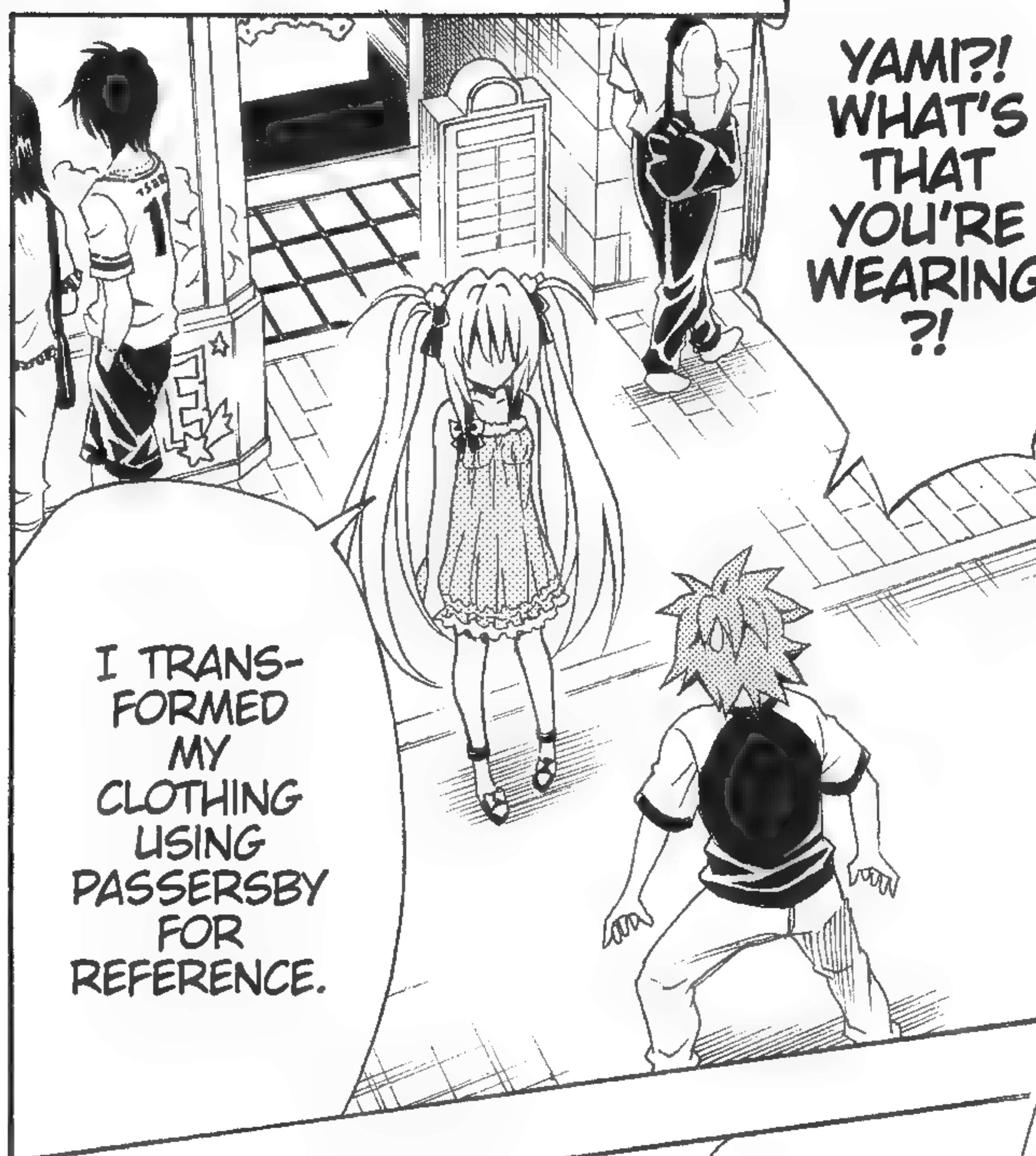
















UH...
S-
SORRY!

BA-DUMP

DON'T
STARE
AT ME
SO
LONG.



PLEASE
...



AGH!



NOT
THIS
AGAIN
!!

OH
NO!!



WATCH
WHERE
YOU'RE
GOING,
WILL
YOU?!

HUFF!
HUFF!

BUMP



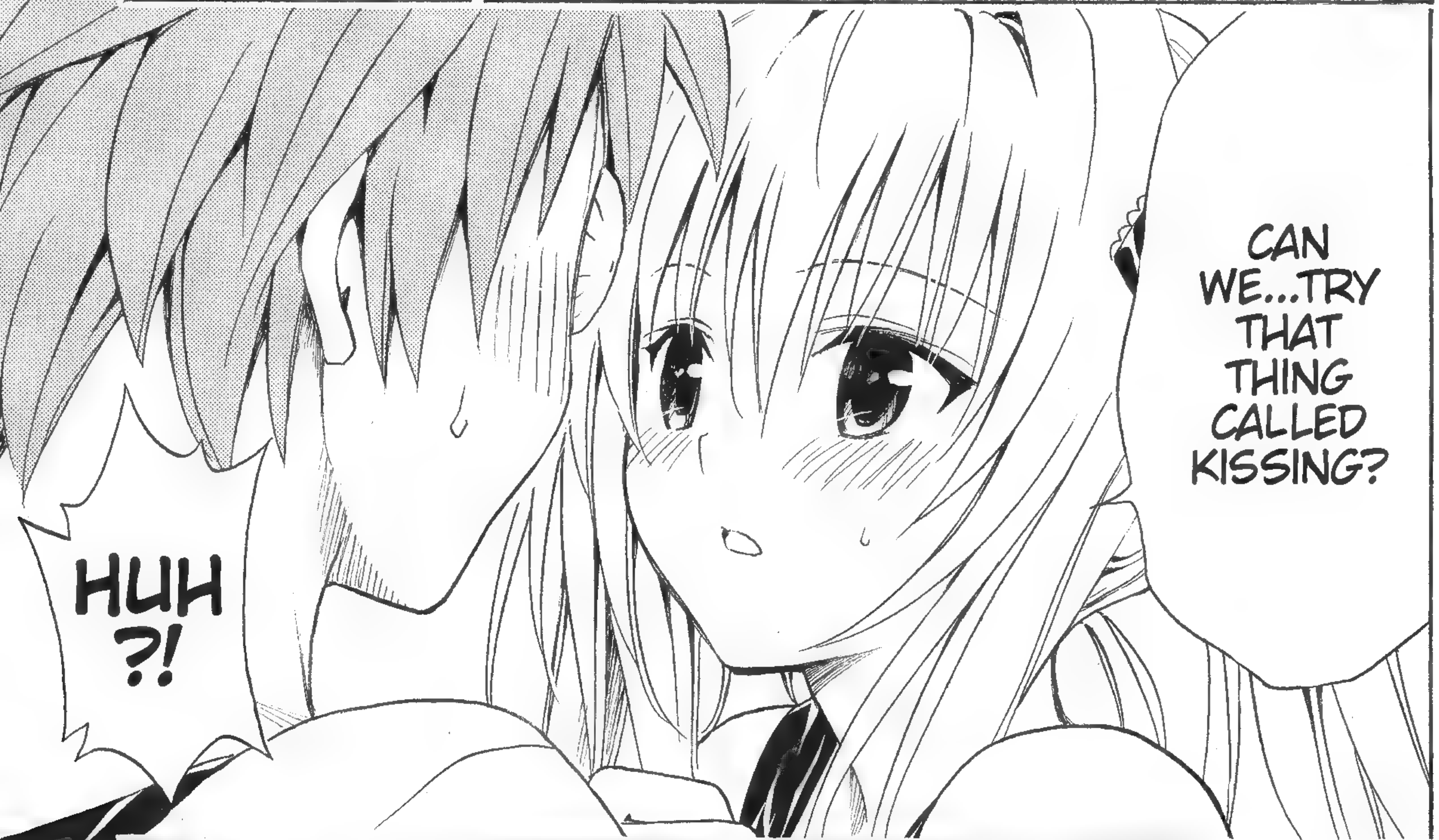




SO...

Nice.
THIS
SENSE OF
COMFORT...
SECURITY...
THEN
I WANT TO
FEEL MORE
OF IT.

IF THIS
IS THE
FEELING
I'VE
BEEN
LONGING
FOR...



HUH
?!

CAN
WE...TRY
THAT
THING
CALLED
KISSING?

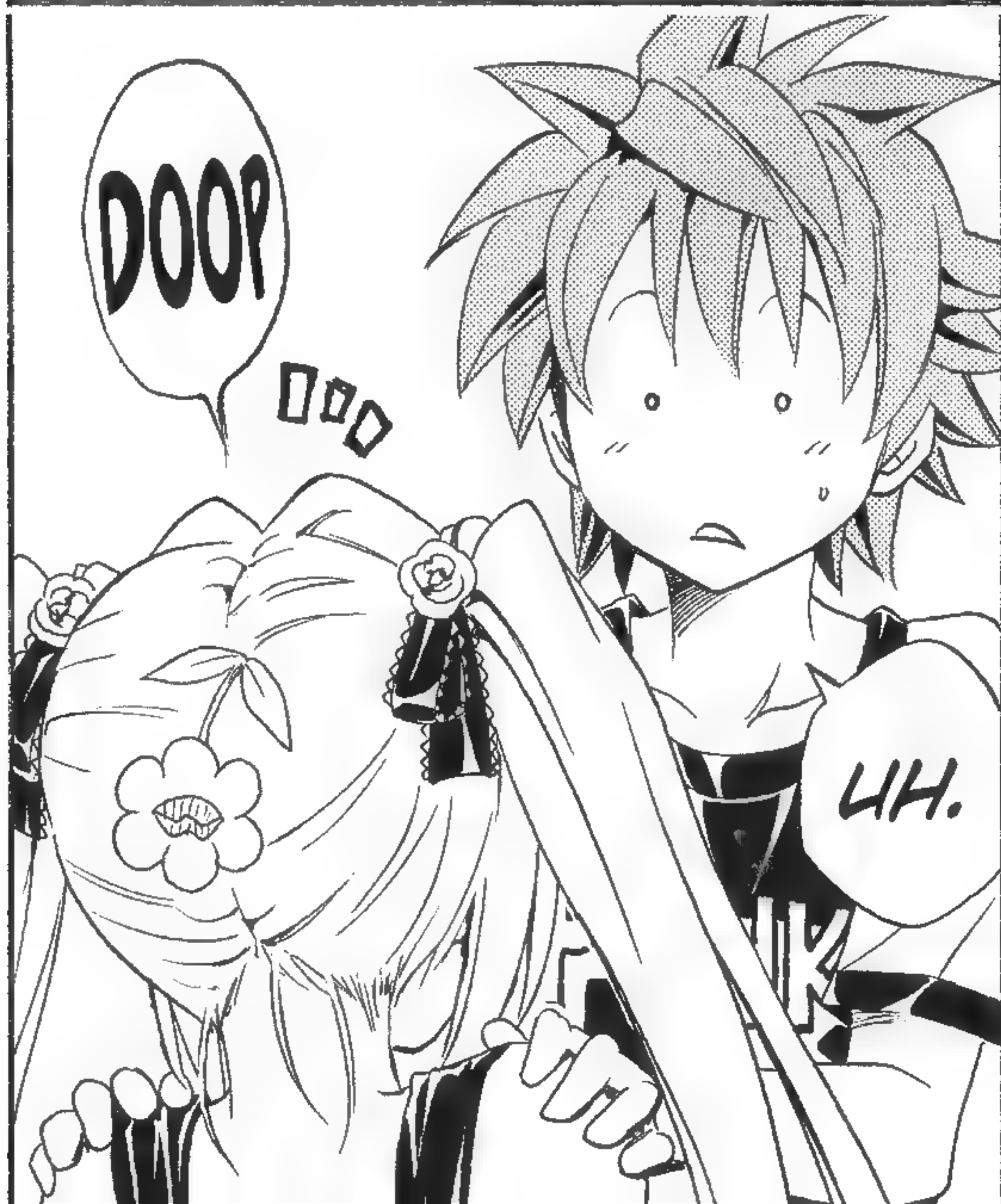


I AM
CURIOUS AS
TO WHAT
MEANING COULD
LIE IN MERE
CONTACT
BETWEEN
MUCOUS
MEMBRANES.

I WOULD
LIKE TO
TRY IT.
I WONDER
HOW IT
WOULD
FEEL.

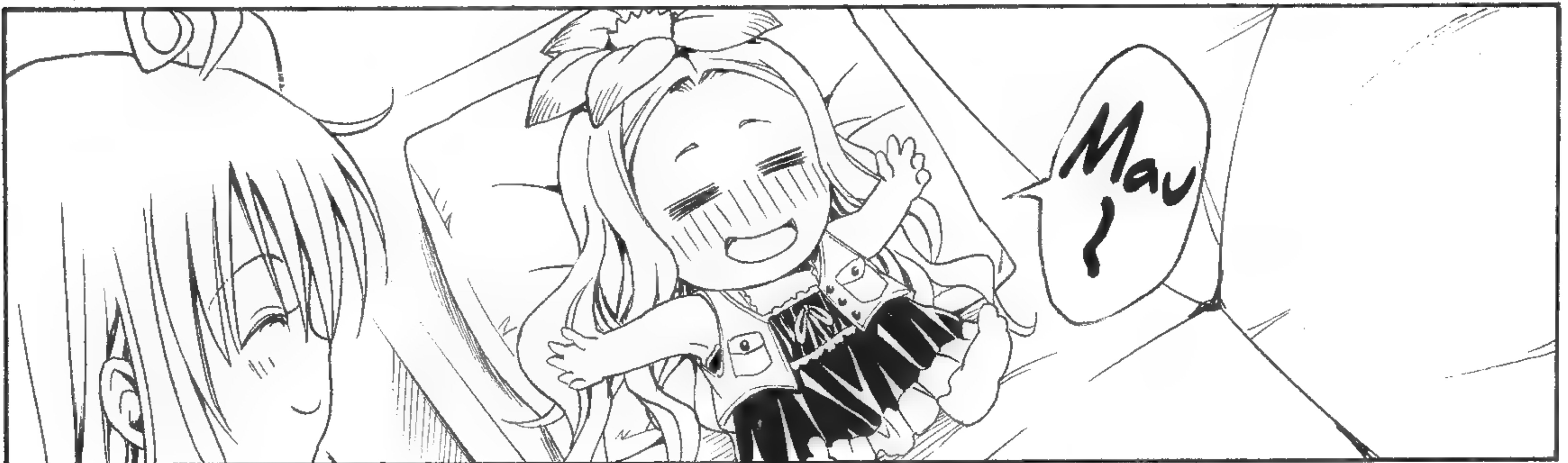
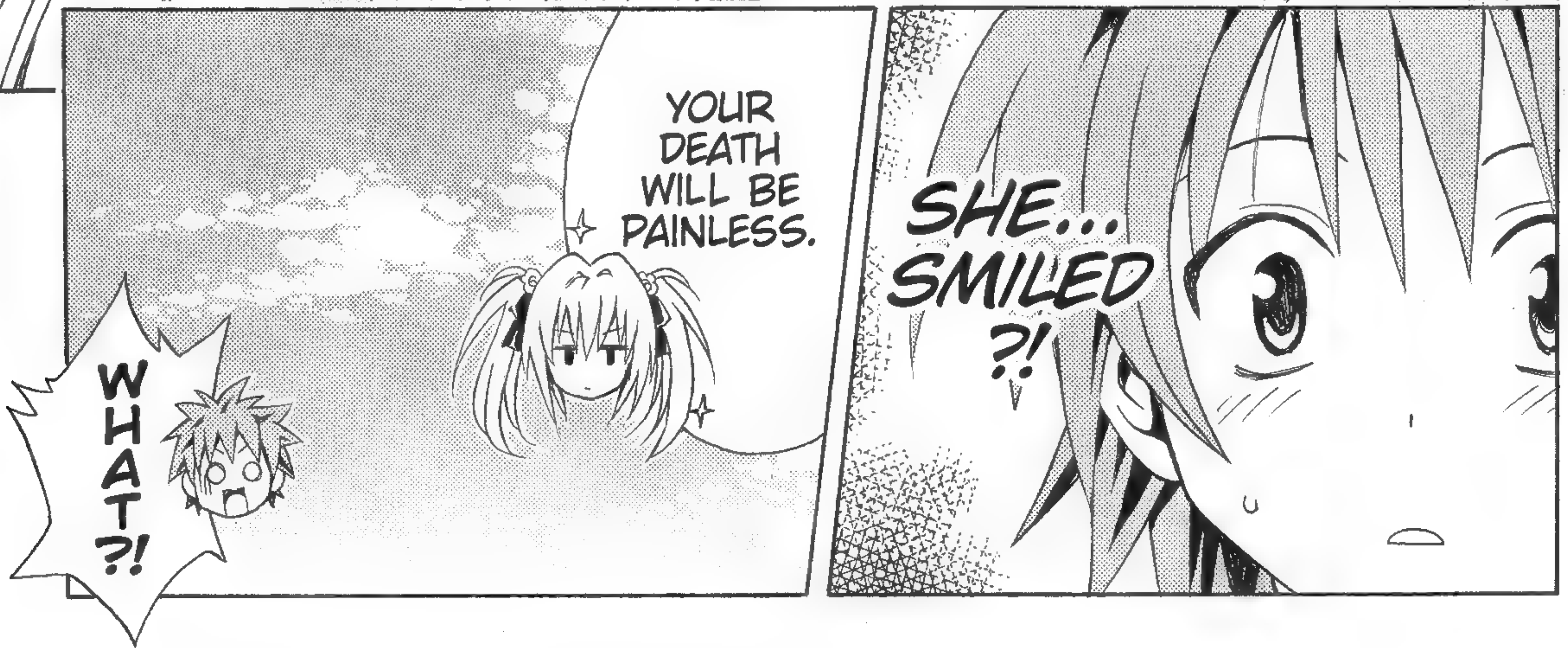


N...
NOOOOO!!!









TO LOVERU



IT'S
LALA-
SAN.

RIING

RIING

TROUBLE 159:
SUMMER MEMORIES



I hear
there's
one
that just
opened!

THE
POOL?

Ah! Hello,
Haruna!

♪
I was thinking
tomorrow we could
get everyone from
class together
and go to the pool.
What do
you think?



Great!
I can't
wait to
see
you!

SURE!
I'LL
BE
THERE!

GNAW

GNAW



!

Rito's
coming
!!





IT
SOUNDS
LIKE YOUR
HEADACHES
ARE CAUSED
BY STRESS
AND
FATIGUE.

...



HUH...

I'LL
GIVE YOU
MEDICINE,
BUT IF
YOU DON'T
ADDRESS THE
UNDERLYING
CAUSES, IT'LL
JUST COME
BACK.







WHAT
A
BIG
POOL!

BA-BWOING

WHAT
A
BIG
PAIR.
♡

KER-SPLAASH

NANA!
YOU
NEED TO
WARM
UP
FIRST!

ALL
RIGHT!
IT'S
TIME TO
SWIM IT
UP!

SPLASH

IT
FEELS
SO
GOOD!

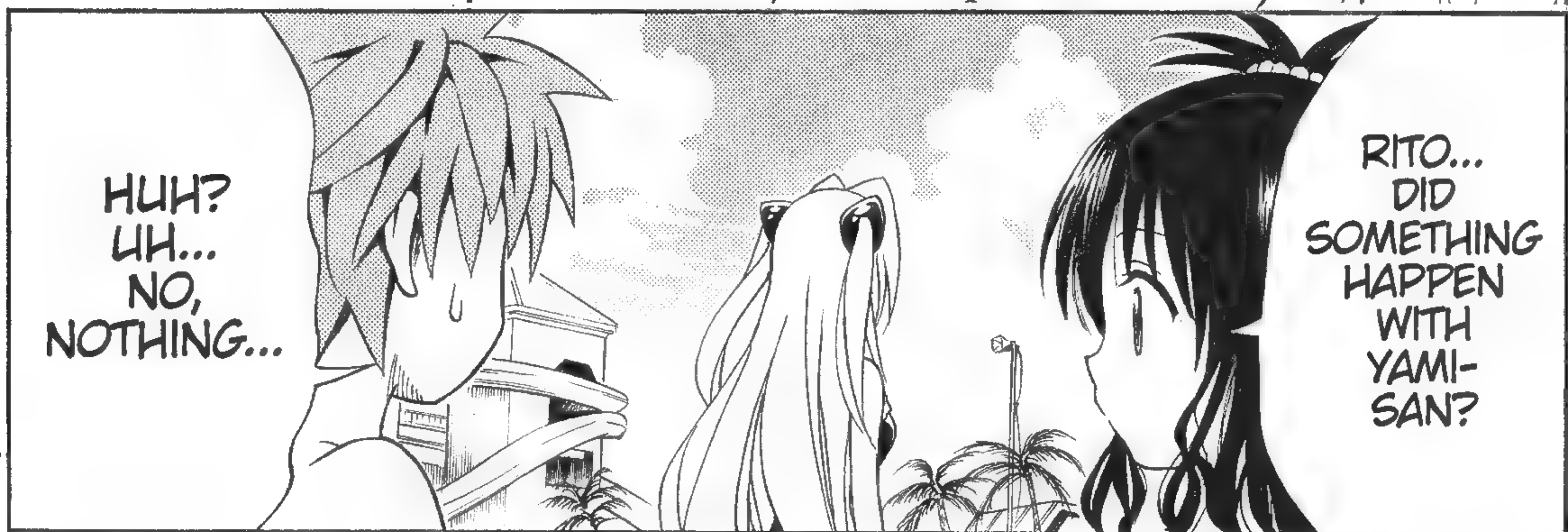
TAKE
THAT,
MOMO!!

SPLASH

OH HH,
NANA,
YOU'RE
SO...

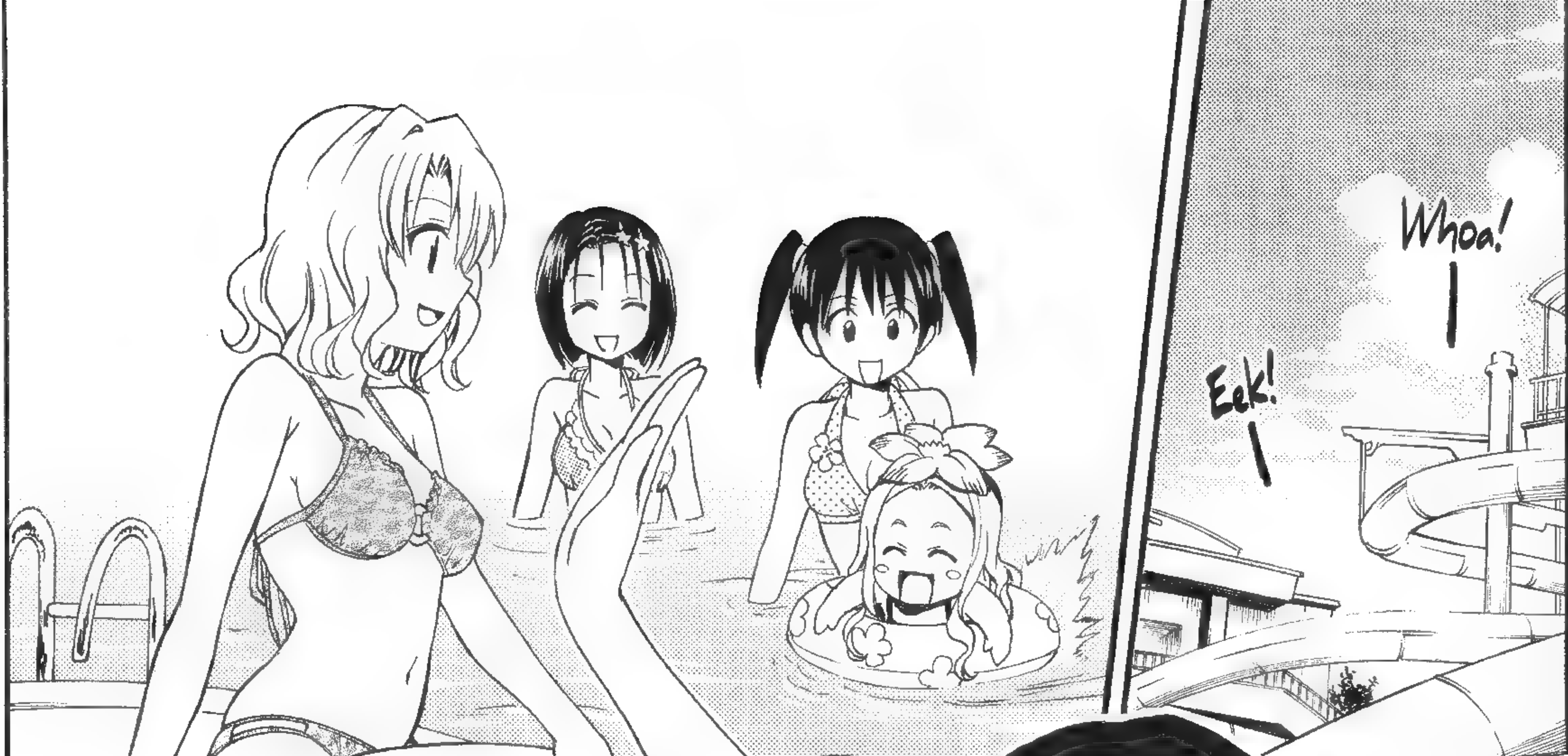
AH
....!











Whoa!

Eek!

SLIP

I'M
GETTING
IN
TOO~!

KERSPLASH

Guh!



OSHIZU-
CHAA-
AAAAAN!!

BLURBLE

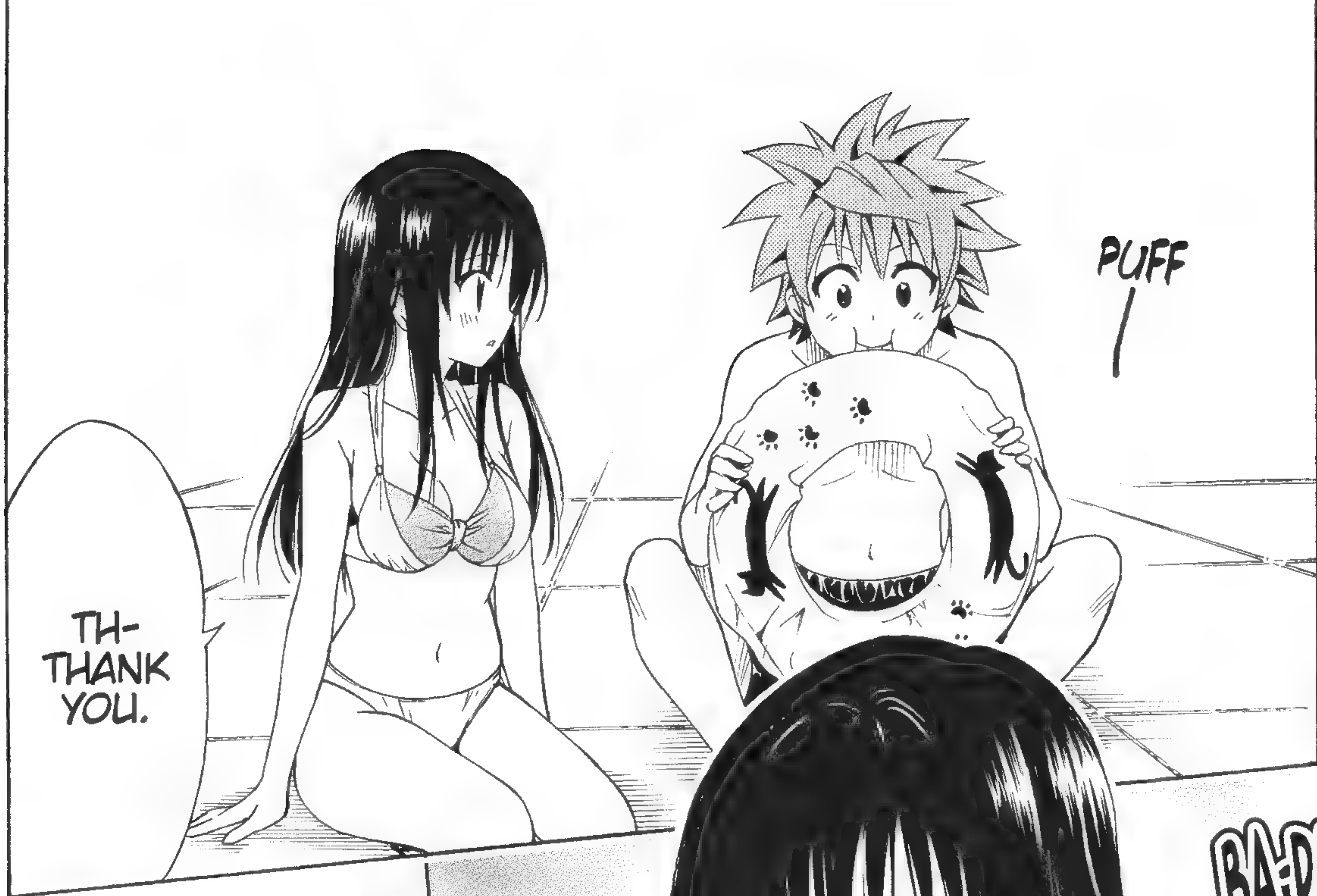
GIMME
THAT.

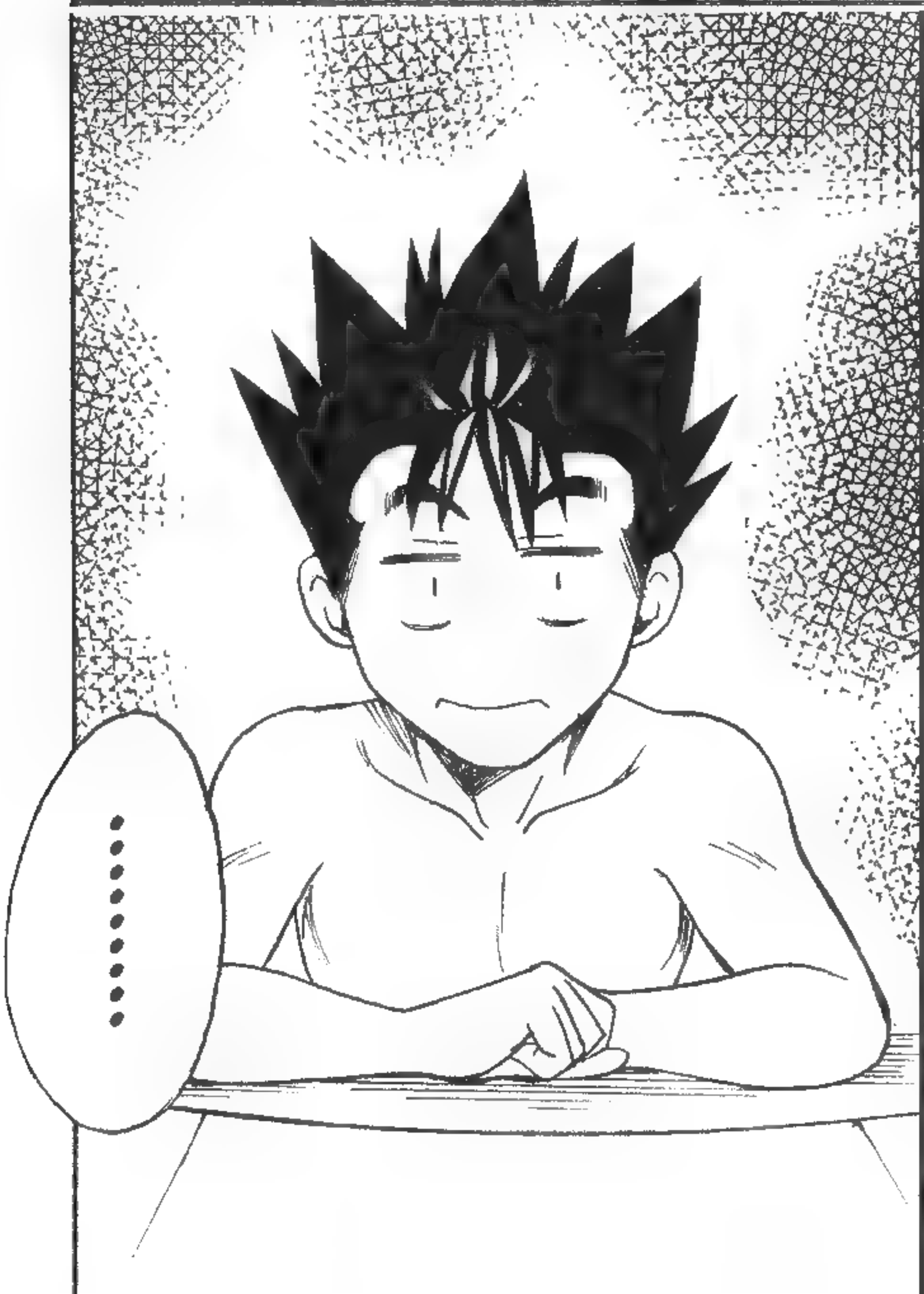
I HAVE
TO
BLOW
UP THIS
RING.

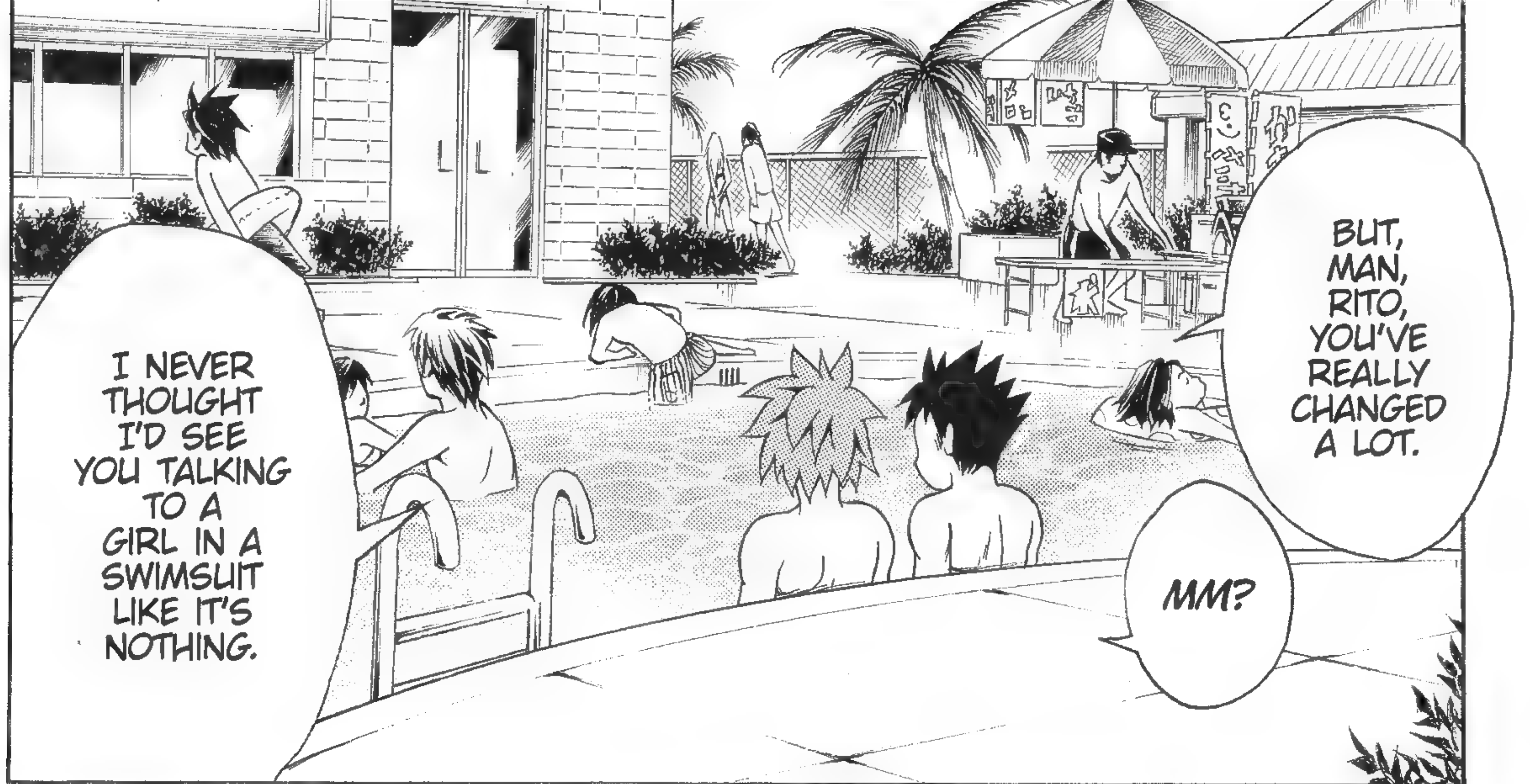
HUH?
AREN'T
YOU
GOING
TO SWIM,
KOTEGAWA?

IT'S
KINDA
HARD
IF YOU
DON'T
HAVE A
PUMP.

I'LL
DO
IT.









RITOOO!

!!!



BECAUSE
OF...
LALA...





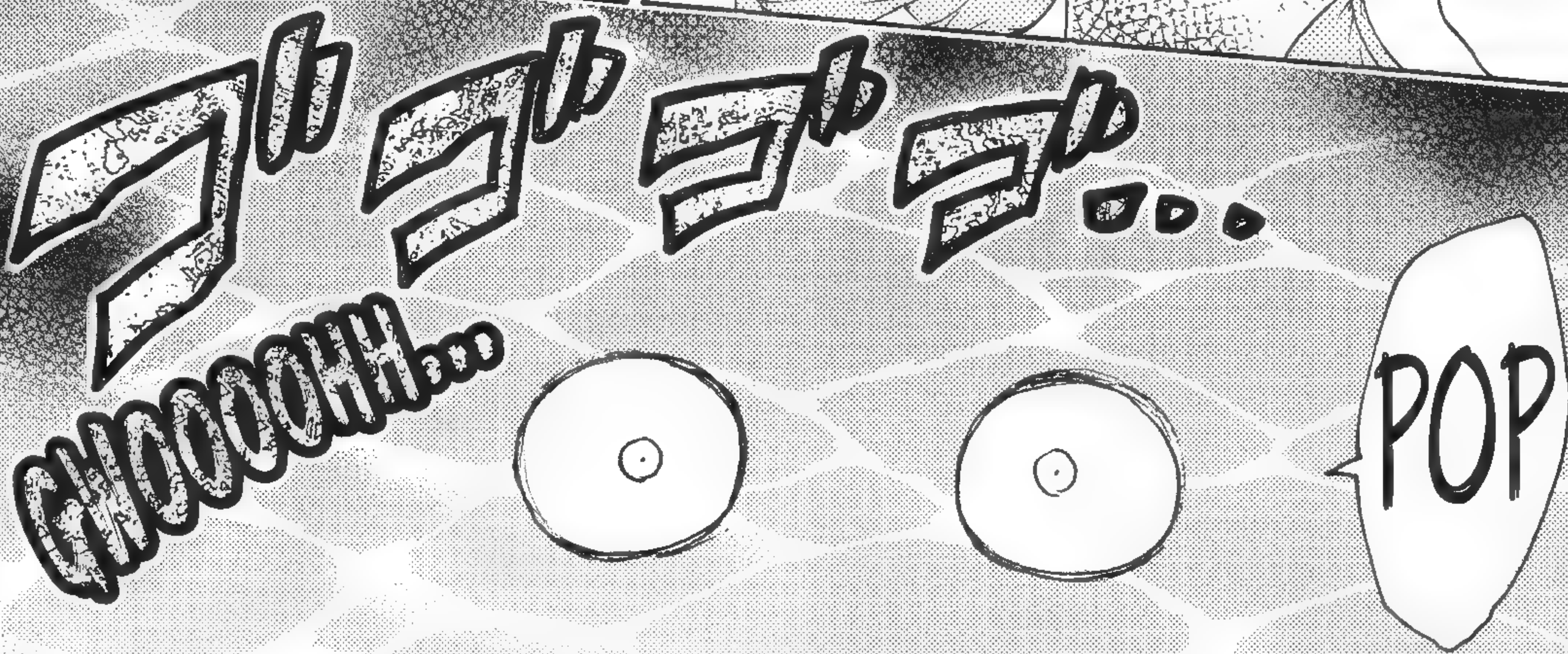


UWEE-
HEEE!
RUN-CHAN
AND
KYOUKO-
CHAN!
I WANNA
LICK
YOU UP!
♡



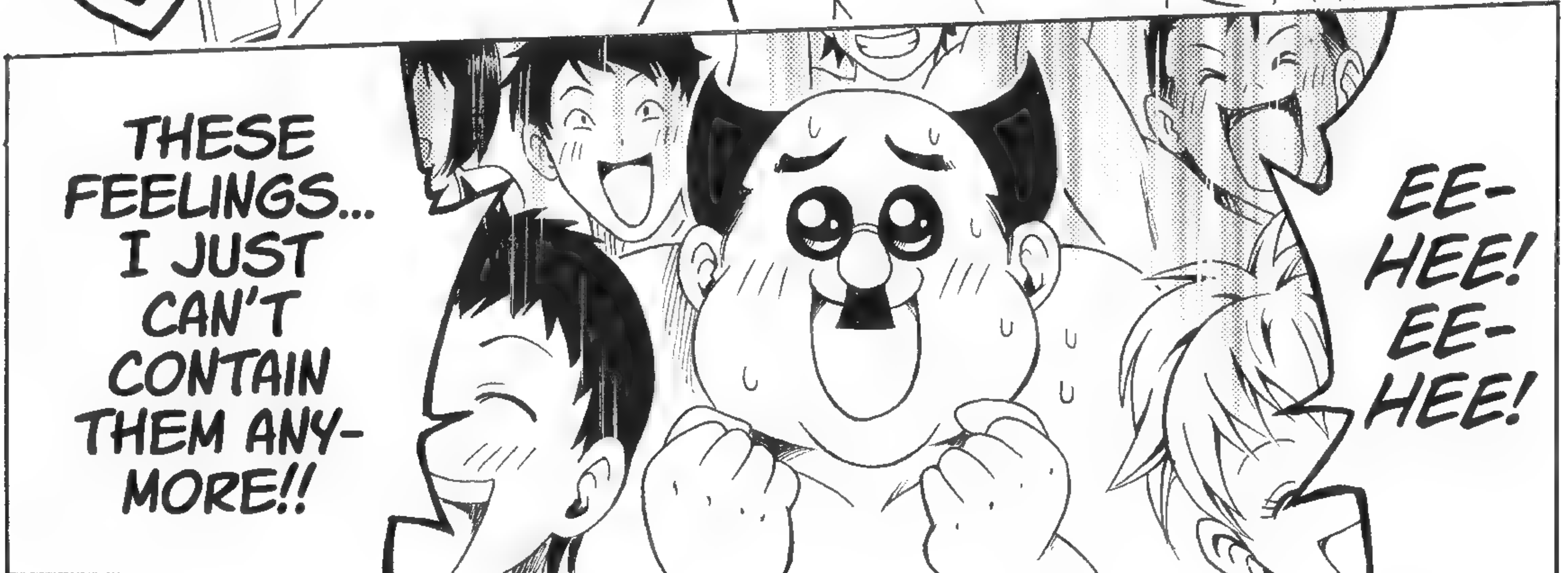
I JUST
HOPE
NOTHING
HAPPENS...

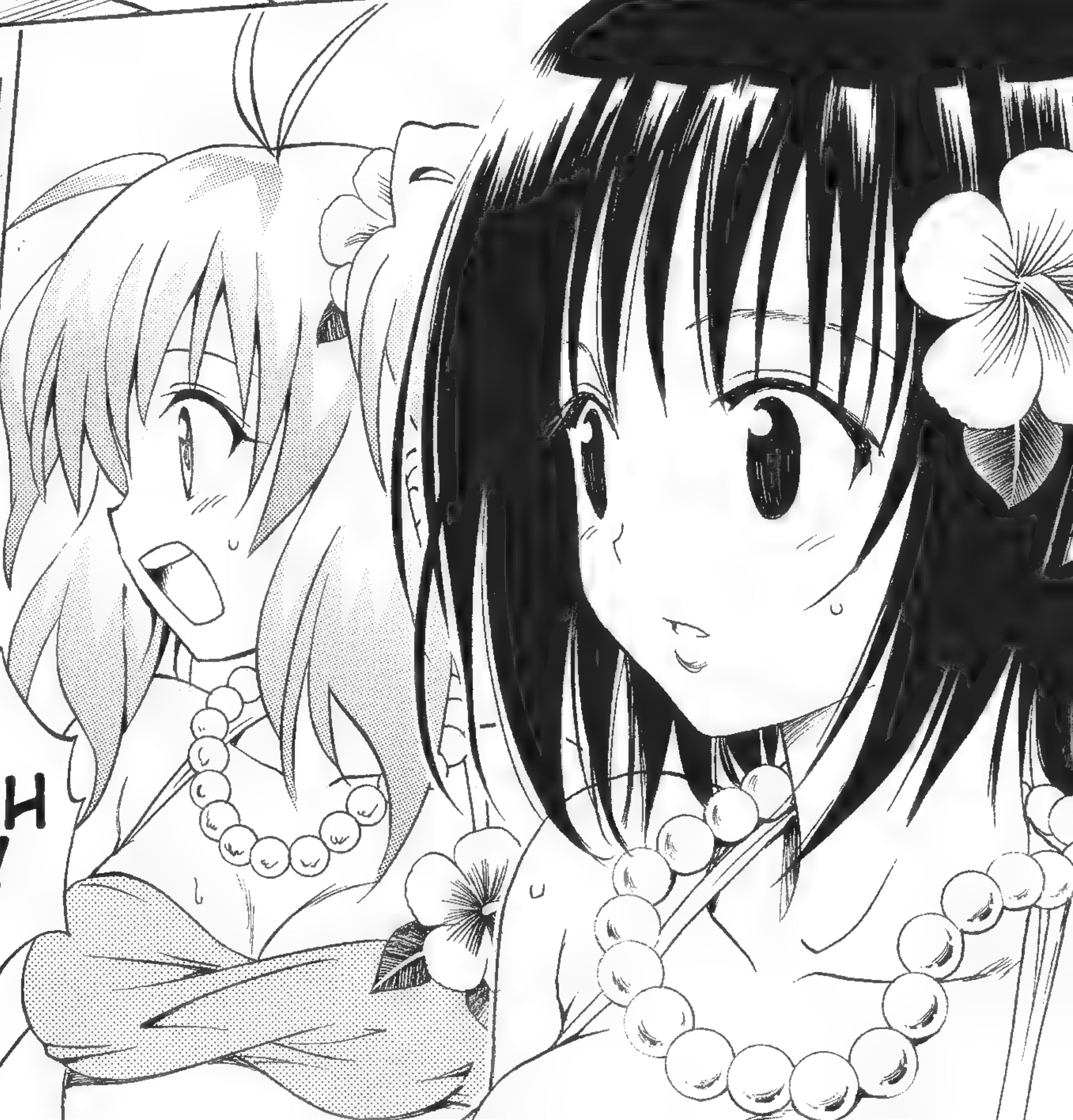
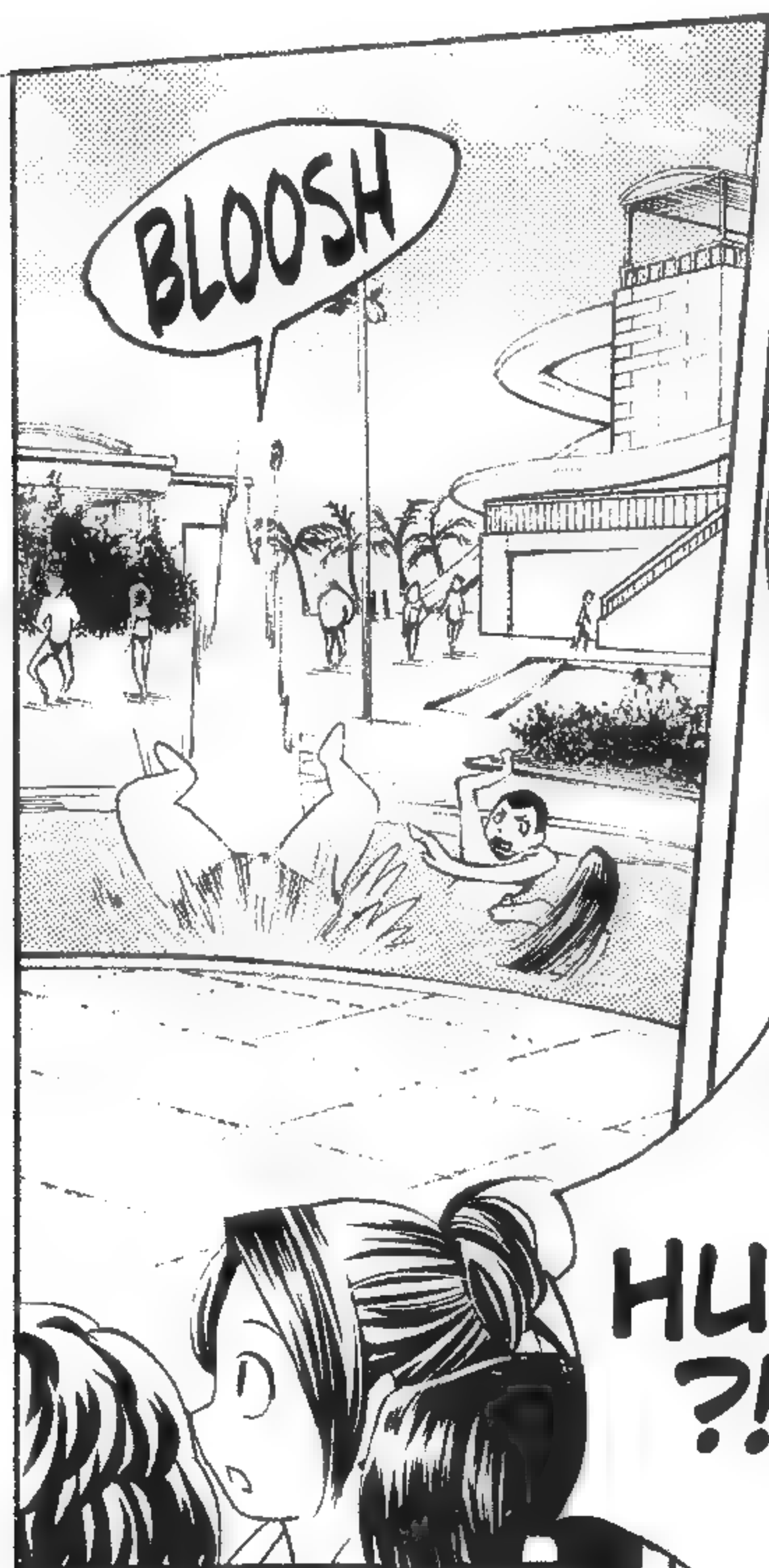
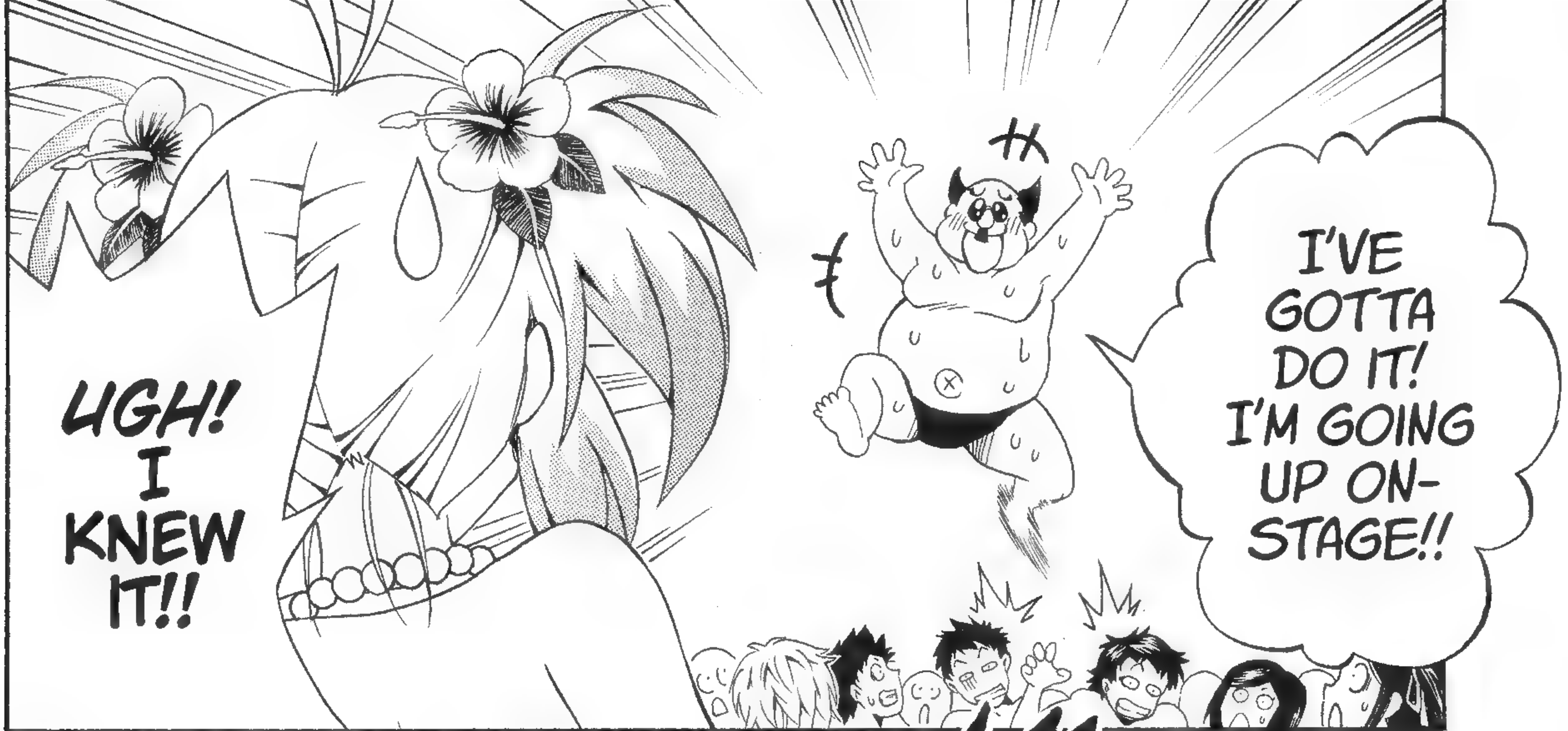
THAT
OLD
CREEP.
THIS IS A
GUERRILLA
GIG! HOW
DID HE
SNIFF US
OUT?!

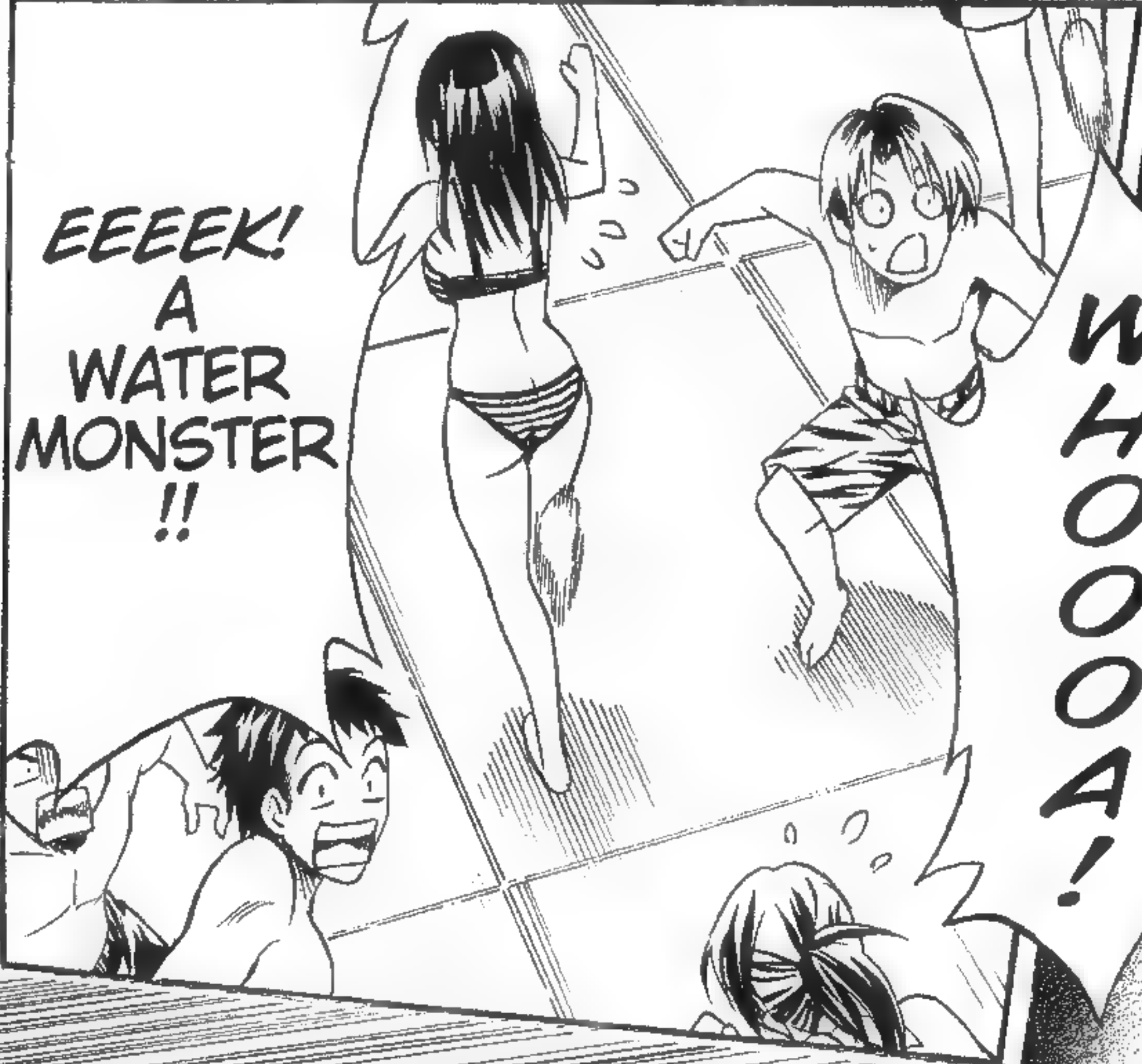


POP

TO LOVERU

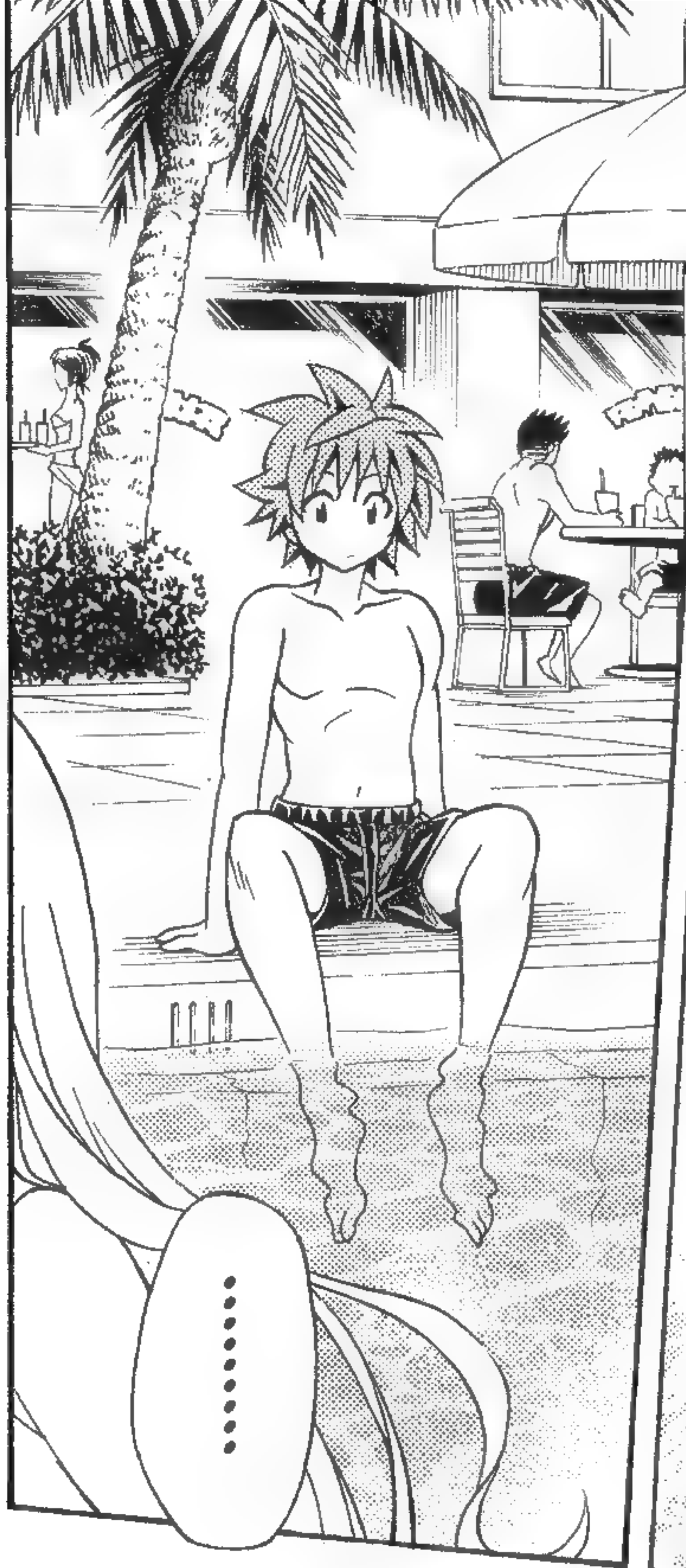






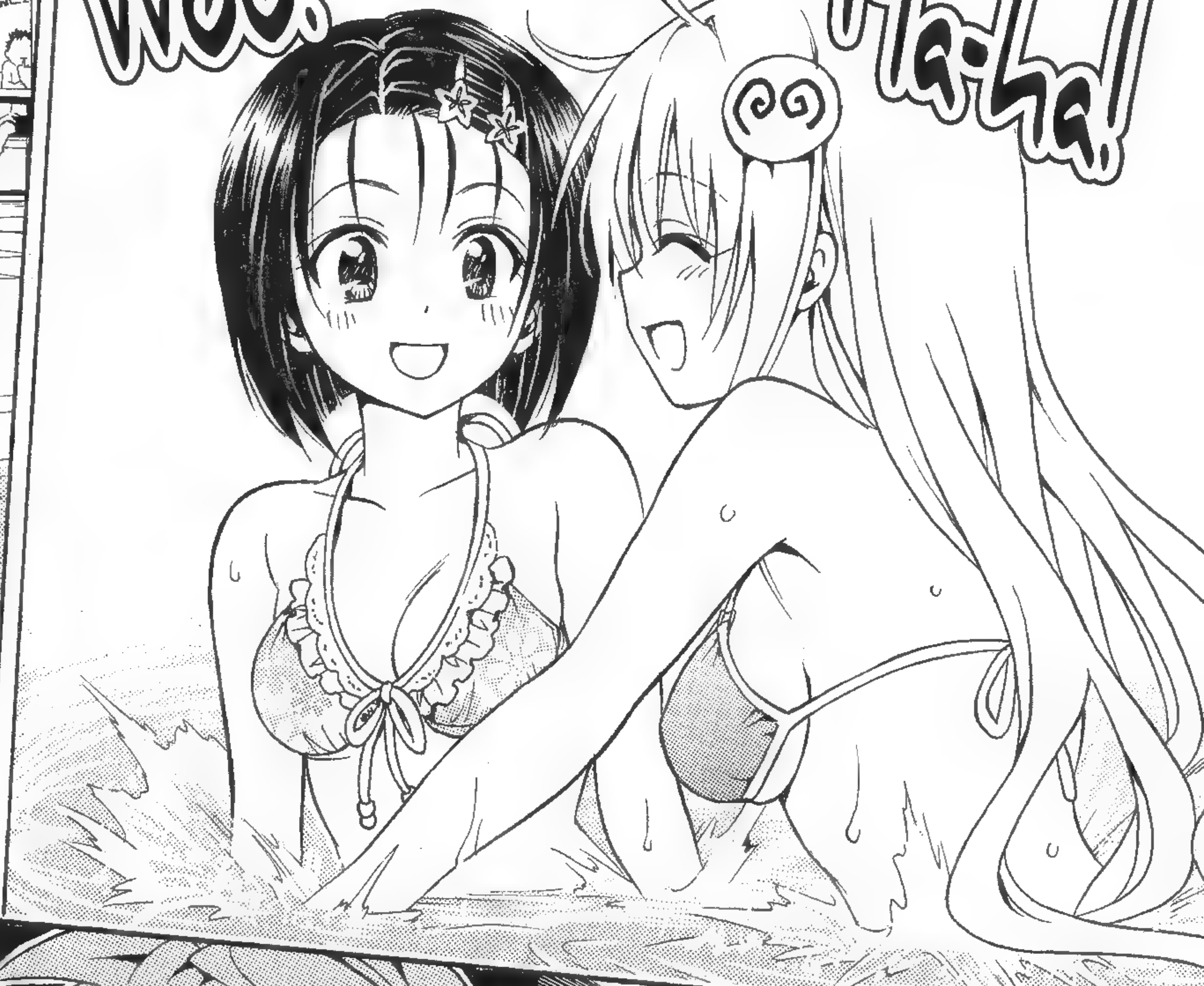






Woo!

Ha-ha!



SARUYAMA
MIGHT
BE RIGHT
THAT IT'S
KIND OF
THANKS
TO LALA...



BACK WHEN
I WASN'T USED
TO GIRLS AT ALL,
I'D ONLY DREAM
OF GOING
TO THE BEACH
OR POOL WITH
HARUNA-
CHAN...



MM.

HARUNA-
CHAN...
LALA...
THE ONE
I LOVE
IS...



BUT I...
STILL
DON'T
KNOW...





?!

ZLORP

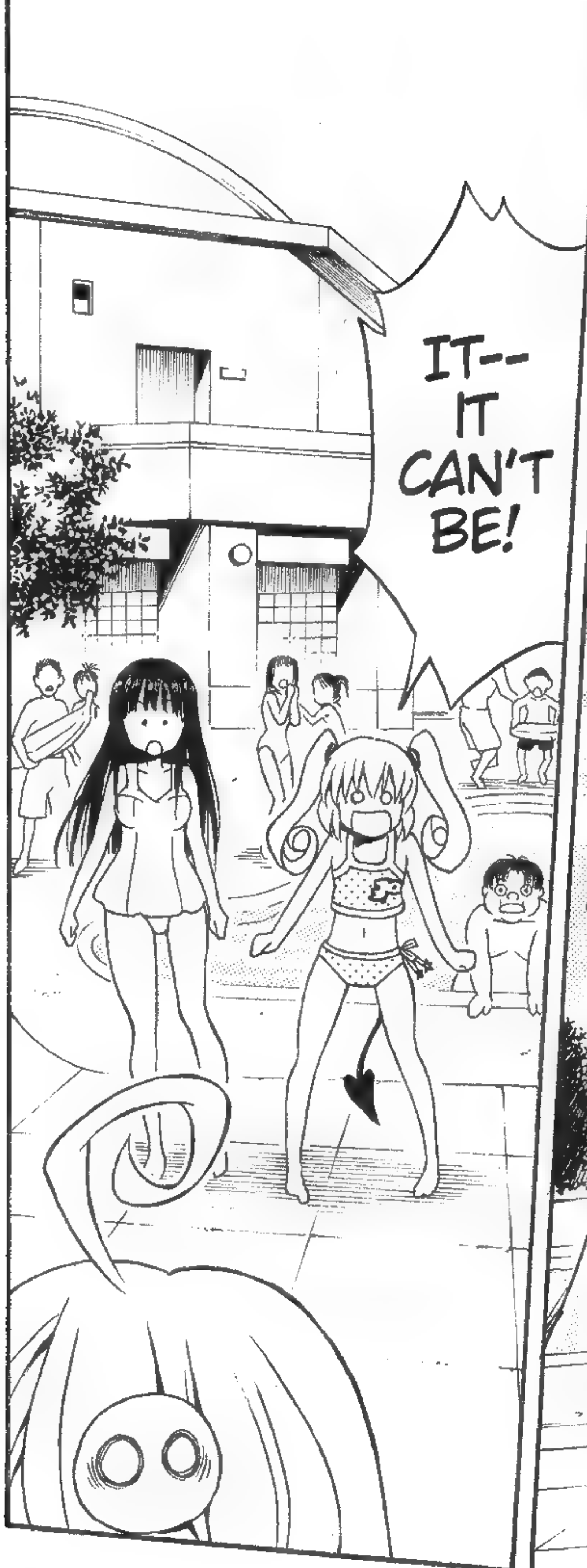
HM?!

BA-BLORCH



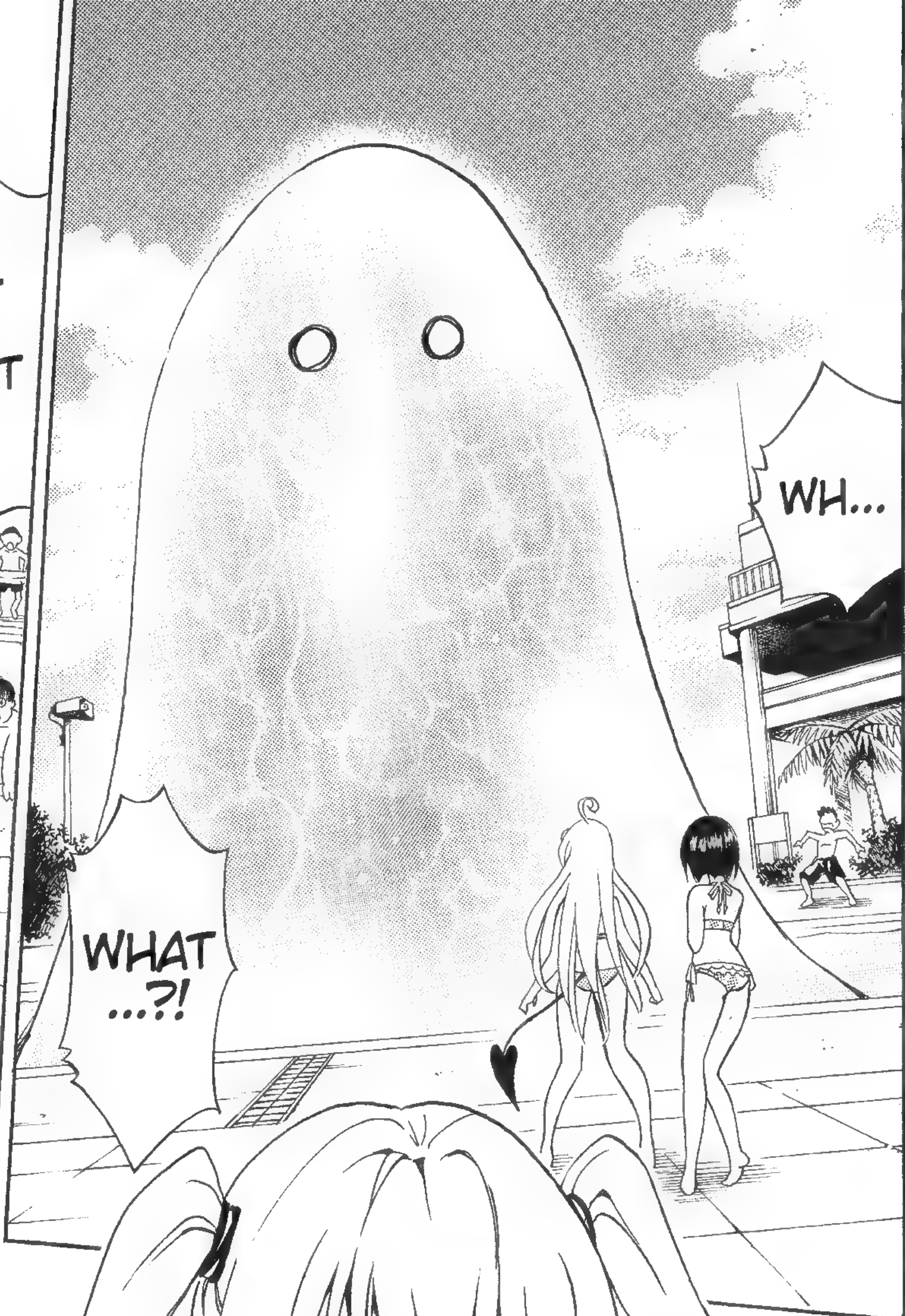
I FEEL
SO
WET,
RITO-
SAN....!



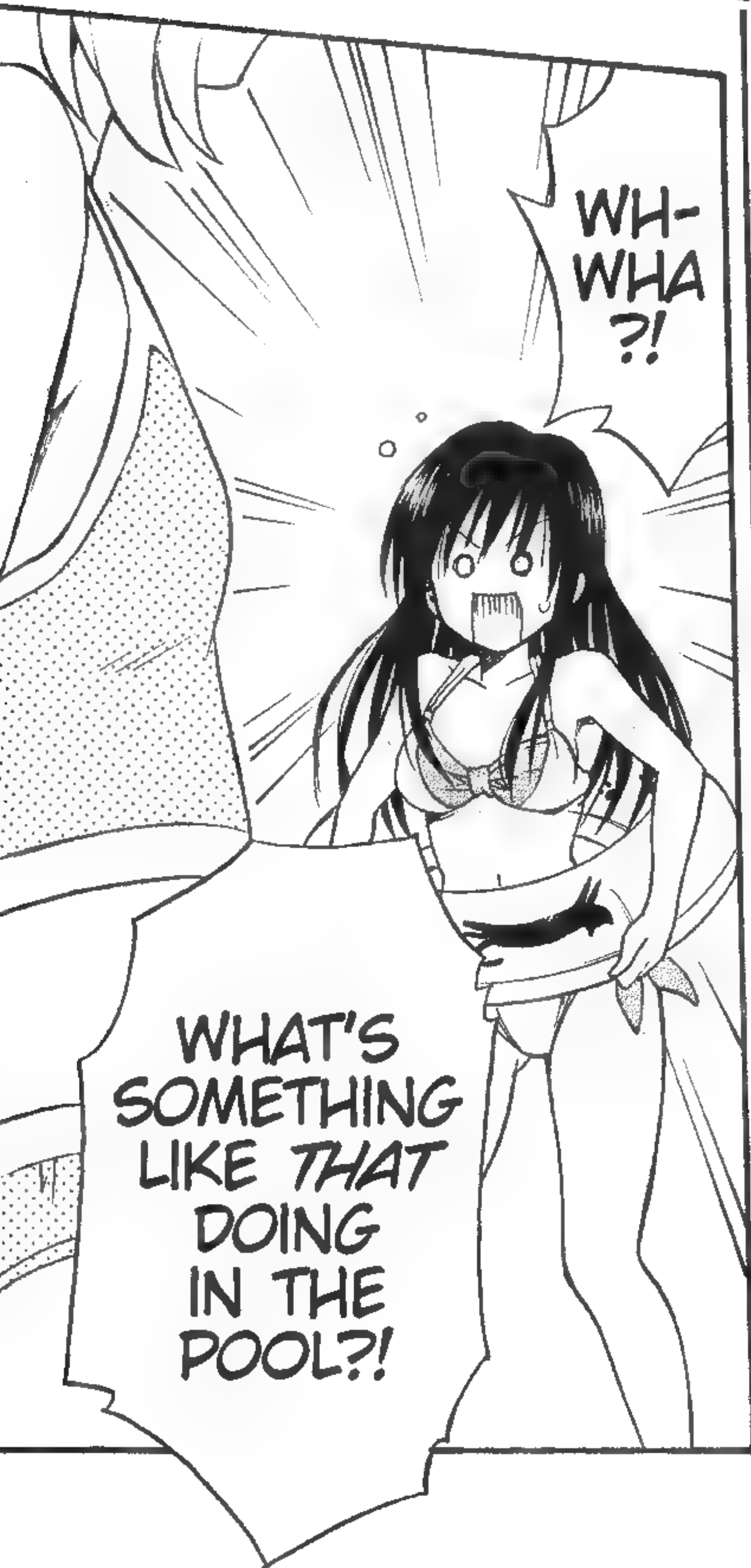


IT--
IT
CAN'T
BE!

WHAT
...?!



WH...



WH-
WHA
?!

WHAT'S
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
DOING
IN THE
POOL?!

THEY'RE
SUPER-
DUPER
RARE!

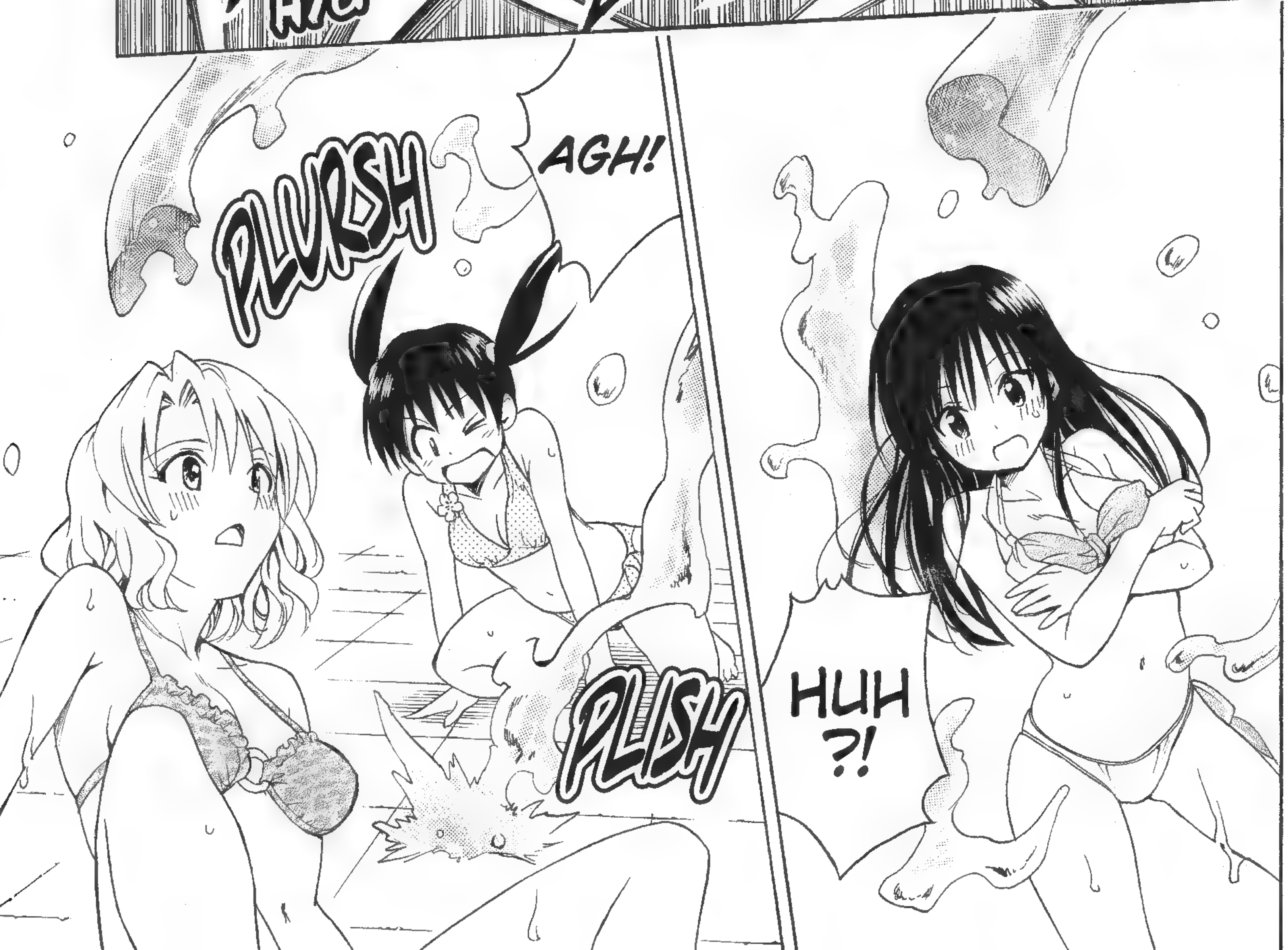


IT'S A
MINERA-
LAN! A
PRIMEVAL
LIFE-
FORM
FROM THE
AQUAN
SYSTEM!

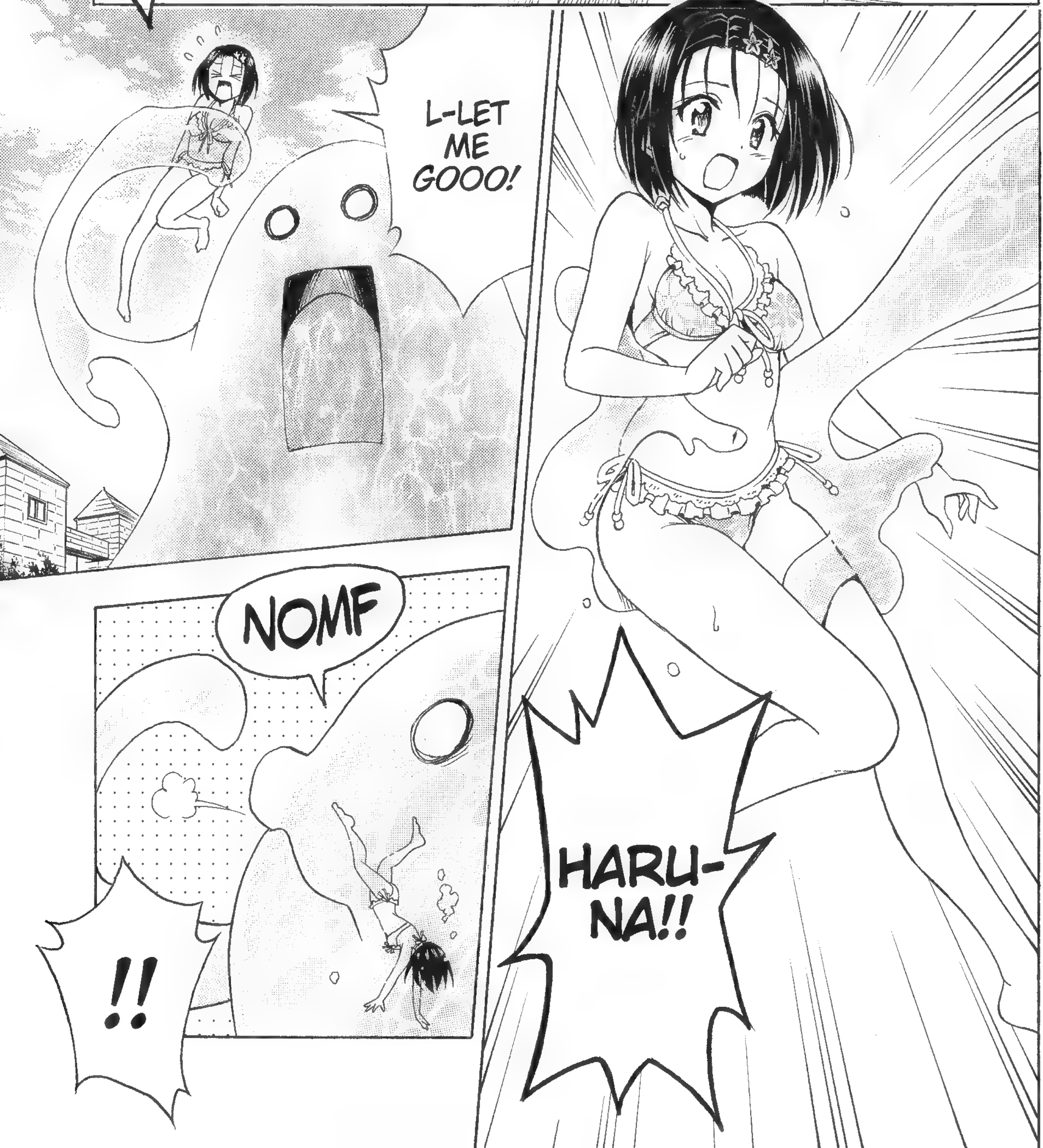
















TO LOVERU







SHOVE

Whoa!

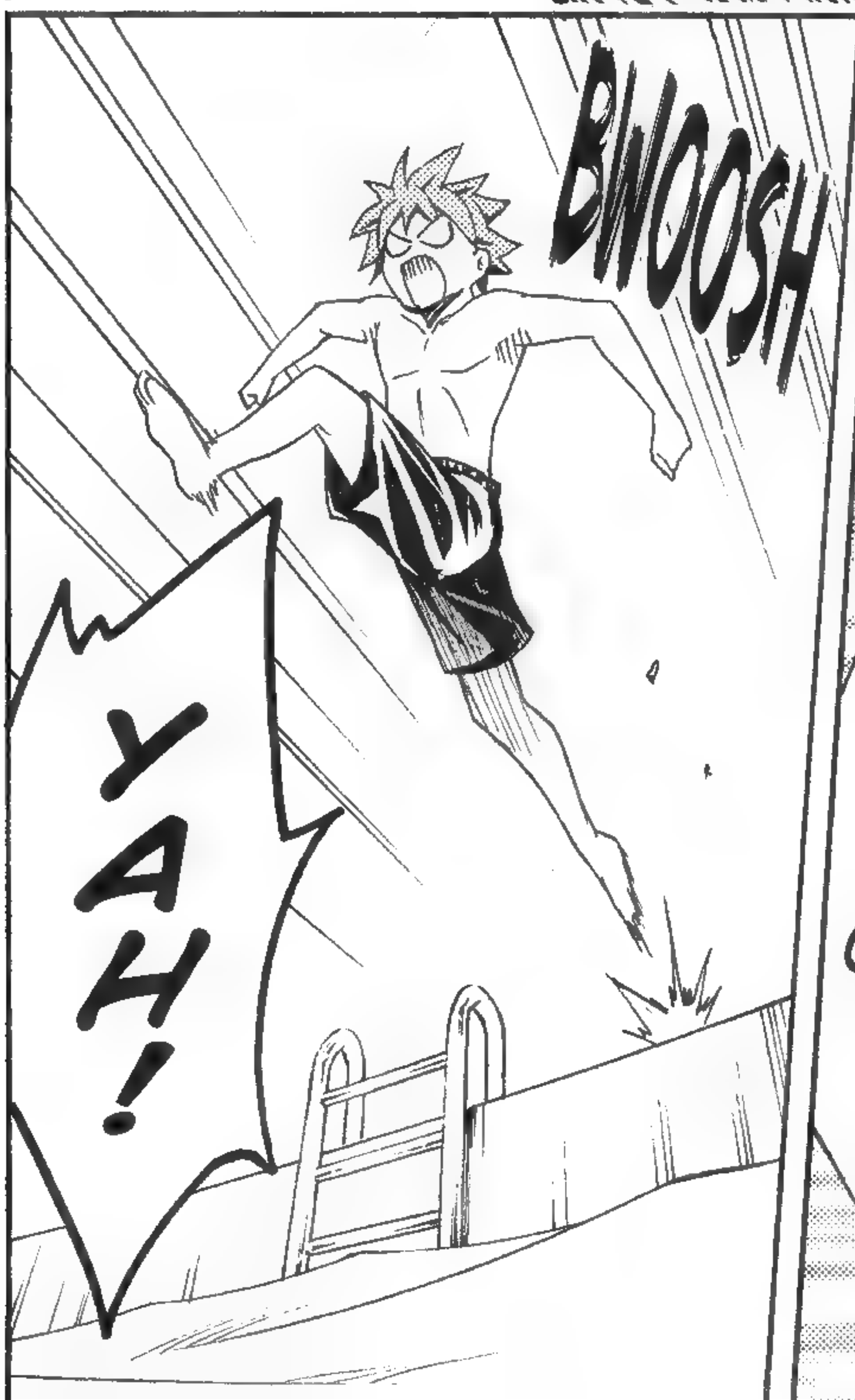
Whoa!

!!!

GA-GLURP

ZLURRP

THE GLOOSHING...
THE SHLIPPING
....!!





WHICH
DO I
SAVE
FIRST
...?!



SPLOORSH

70



YULIKI-
KUN?!



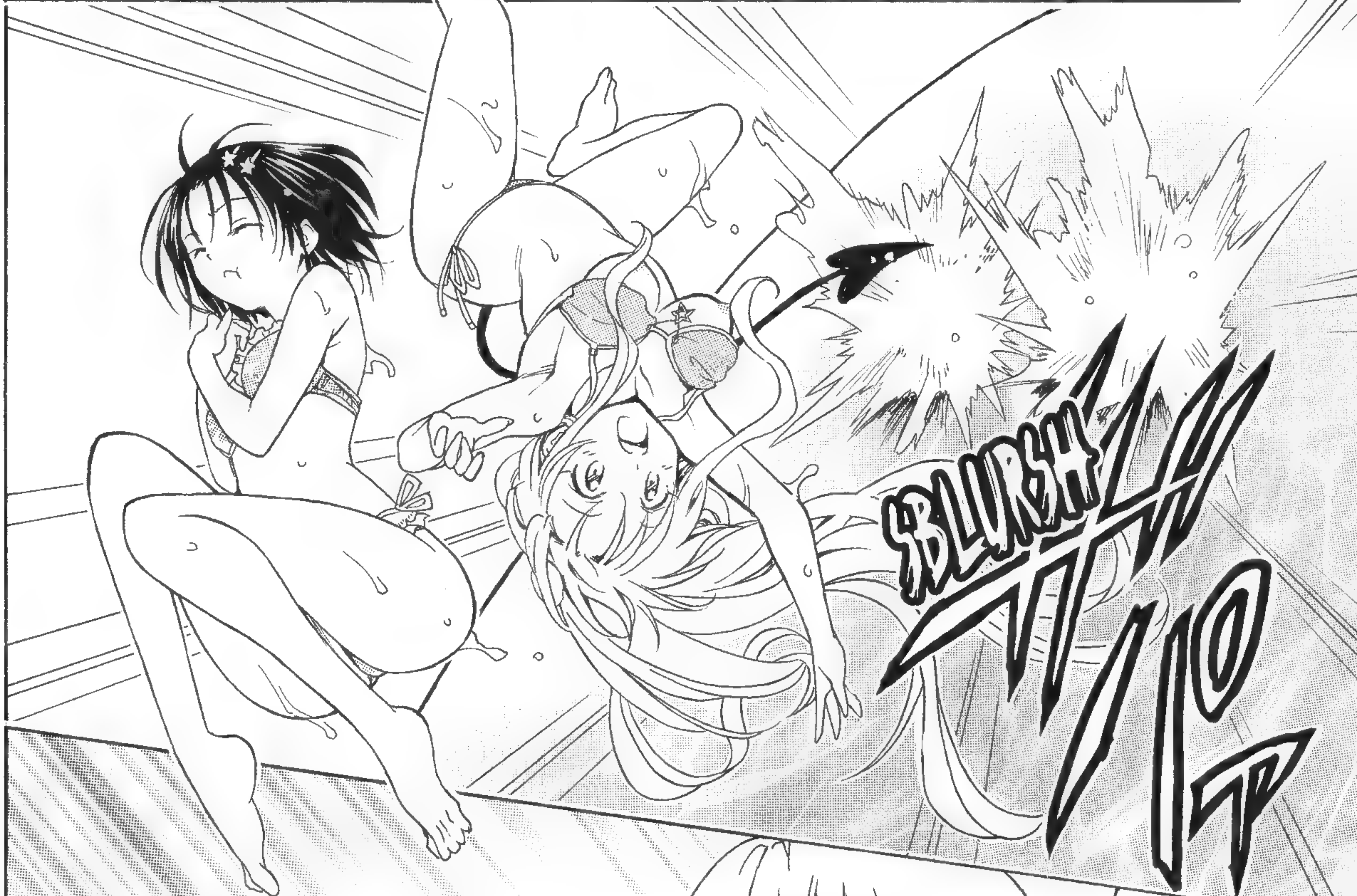
RITO
?!





I'LL
SAVE
THEM
BOTH
!!

SCREW
THAT!!



BLURSH



HARU-
NA!!

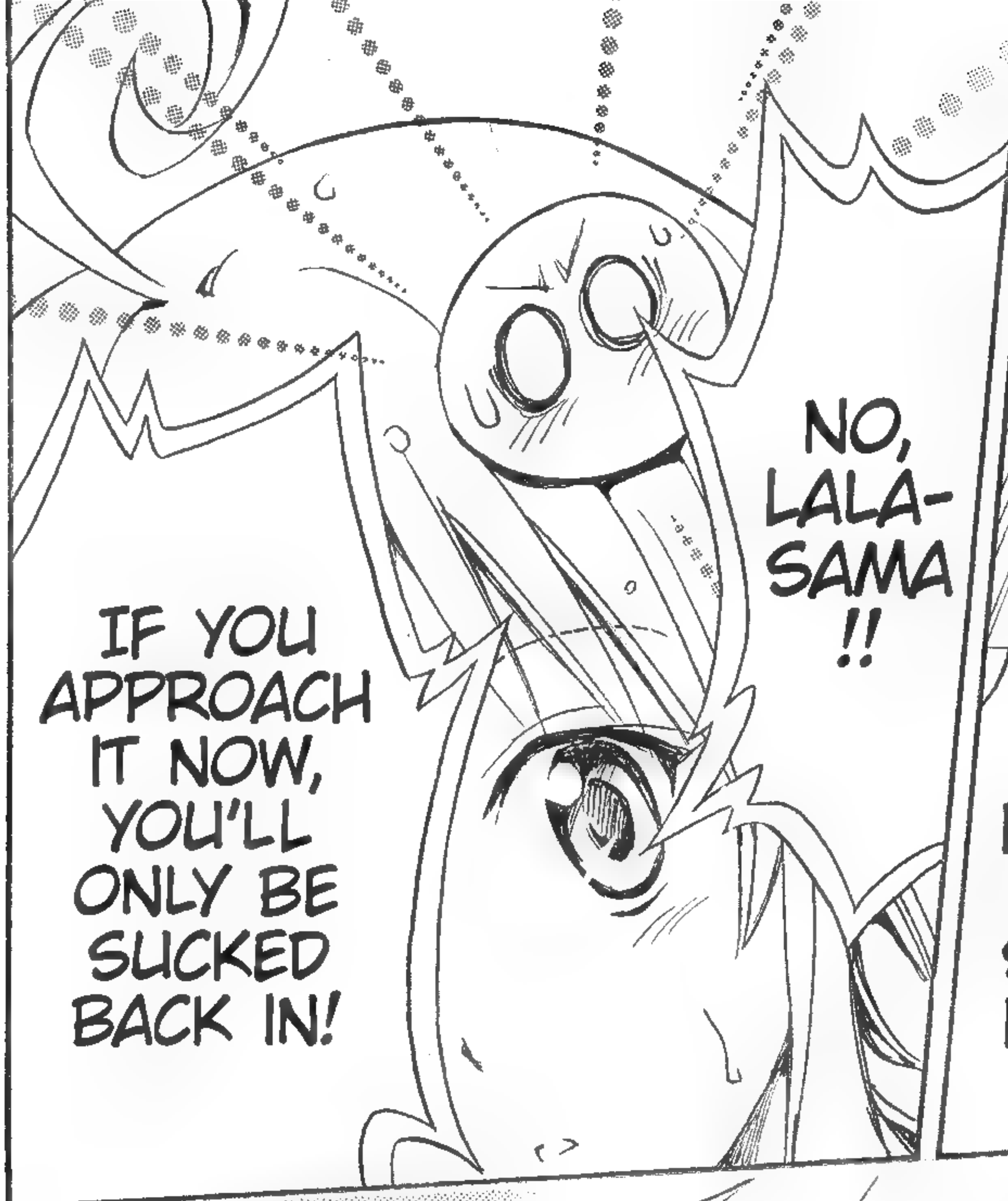
ONEE-
SAMA!



RITO!

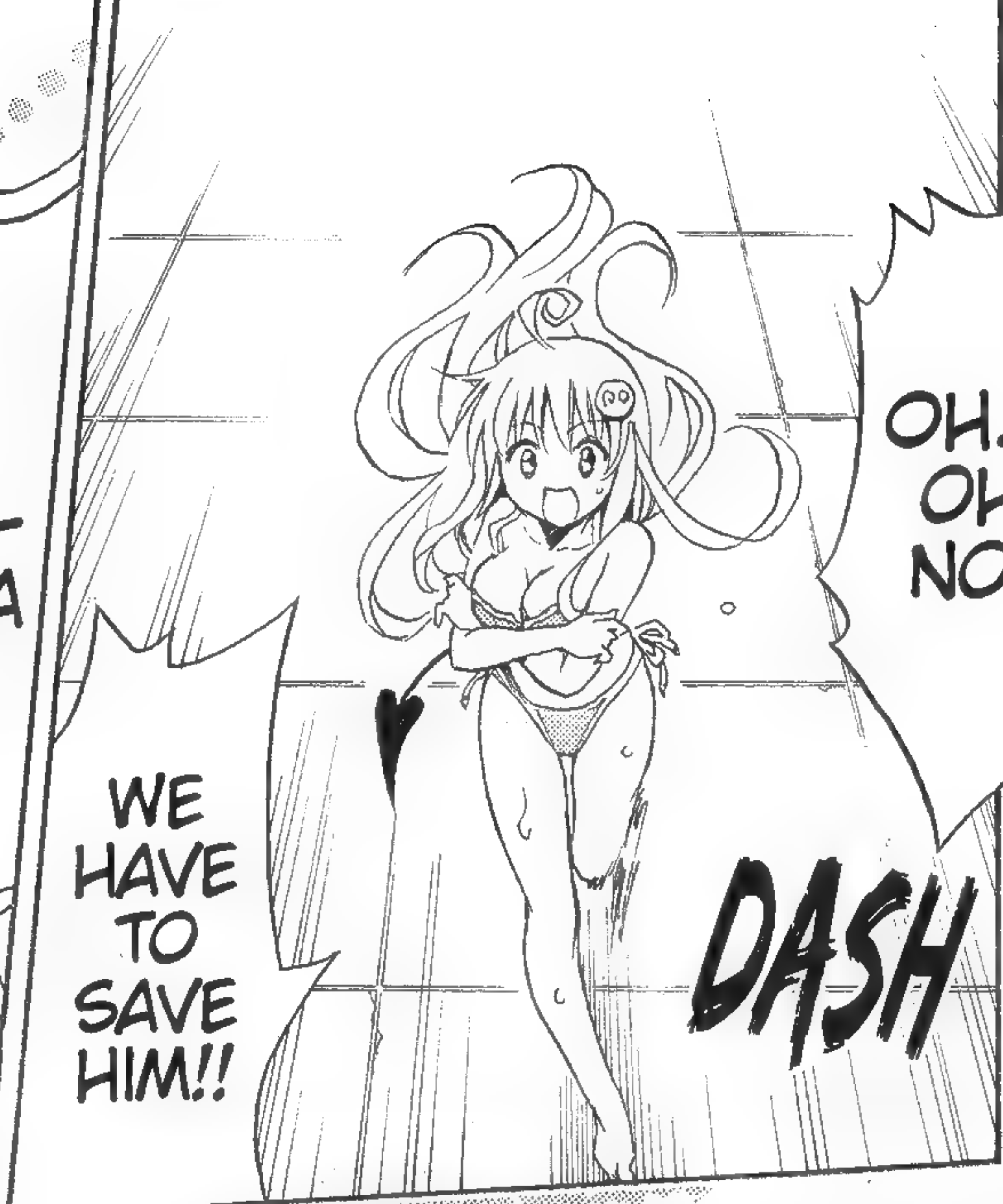
THIS IS
BAD.
I CAN
HARDLY
MOVE...

BUT IF
THEY'RE
SAFE,
THAT'S
WHAT
MATTERS
....!



IF YOU
APPROACH
IT NOW,
YOU'LL
ONLY BE
SLUCKED
BACK IN!

NO,
LALA-
SAMA
!!



OH...
OH
NO!

WE
HAVE
TO
SAVE
HIM!!

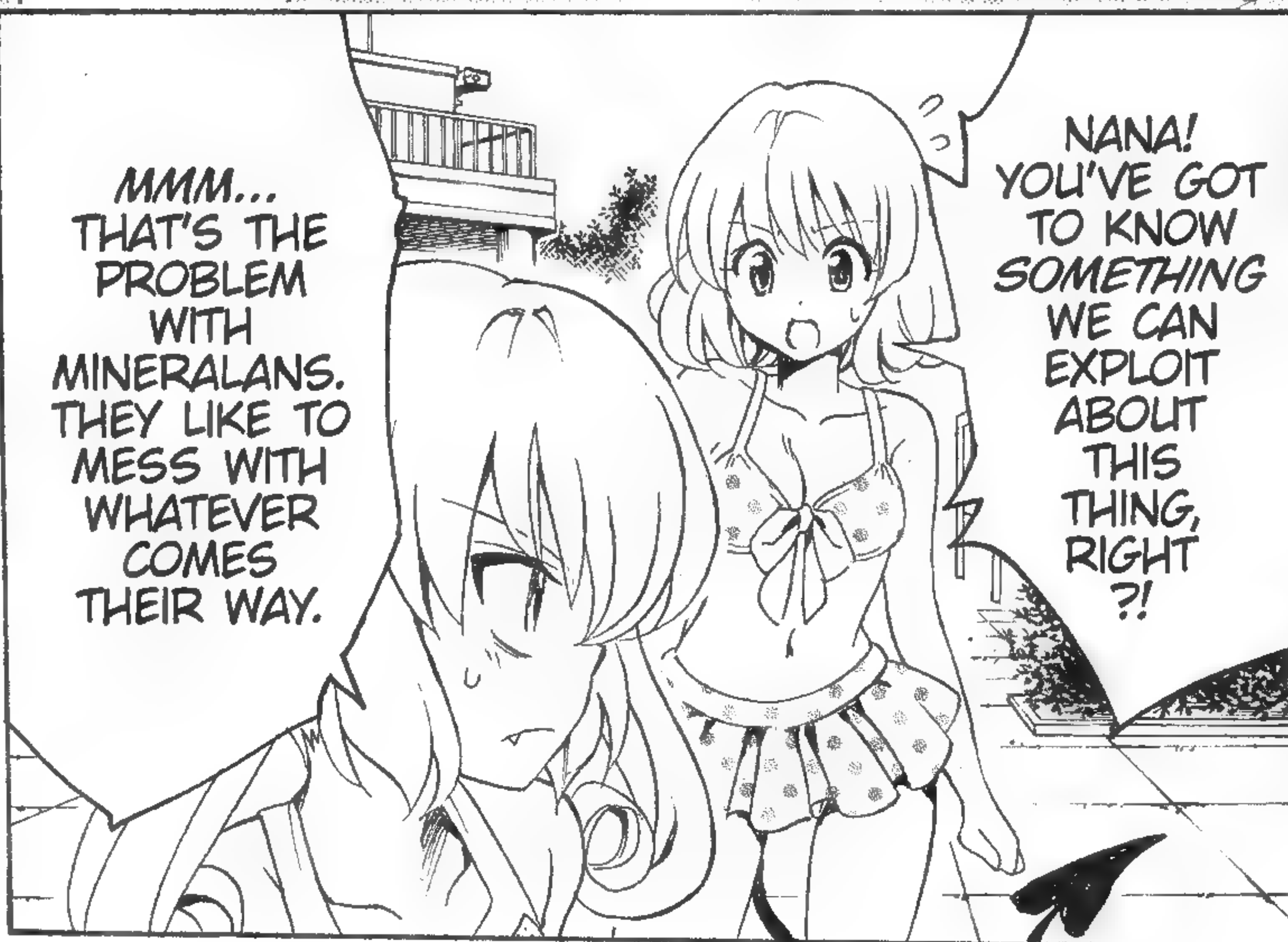
DASH



BUT...
BUT!



OH,
THAT'S
RIGHT!



MMM...
THAT'S THE
PROBLEM
WITH
MINERALANS.
THEY LIKE TO
MESS WITH
WHATEVER
COMES
THEIR WAY.

NANA!
YOU'VE GOT
TO KNOW
SOMETHING
WE CAN
EXPLOIT
ABOUT
THIS
THING,
RIGHT
?!



RNGH...

YAMI-CHAN!

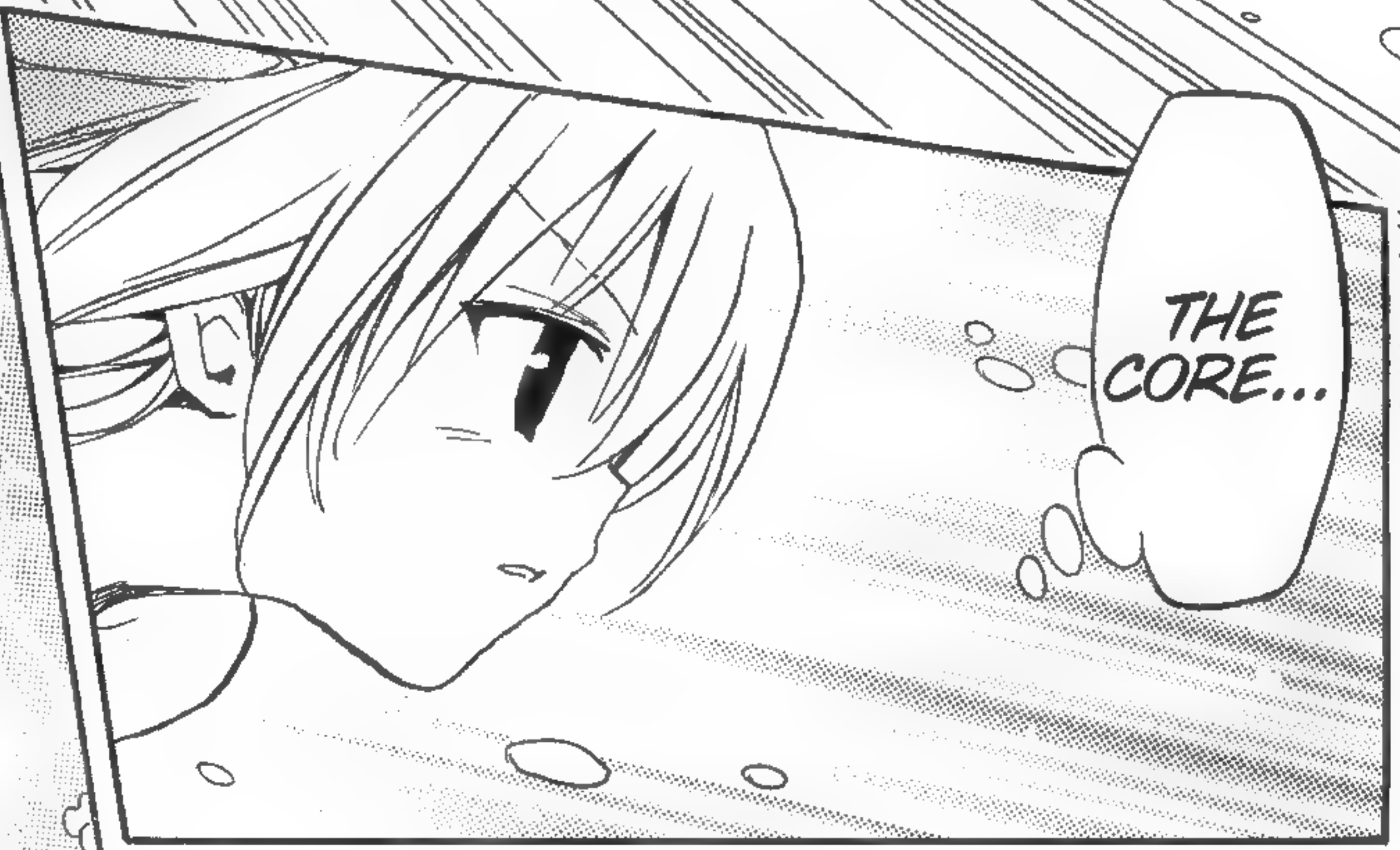
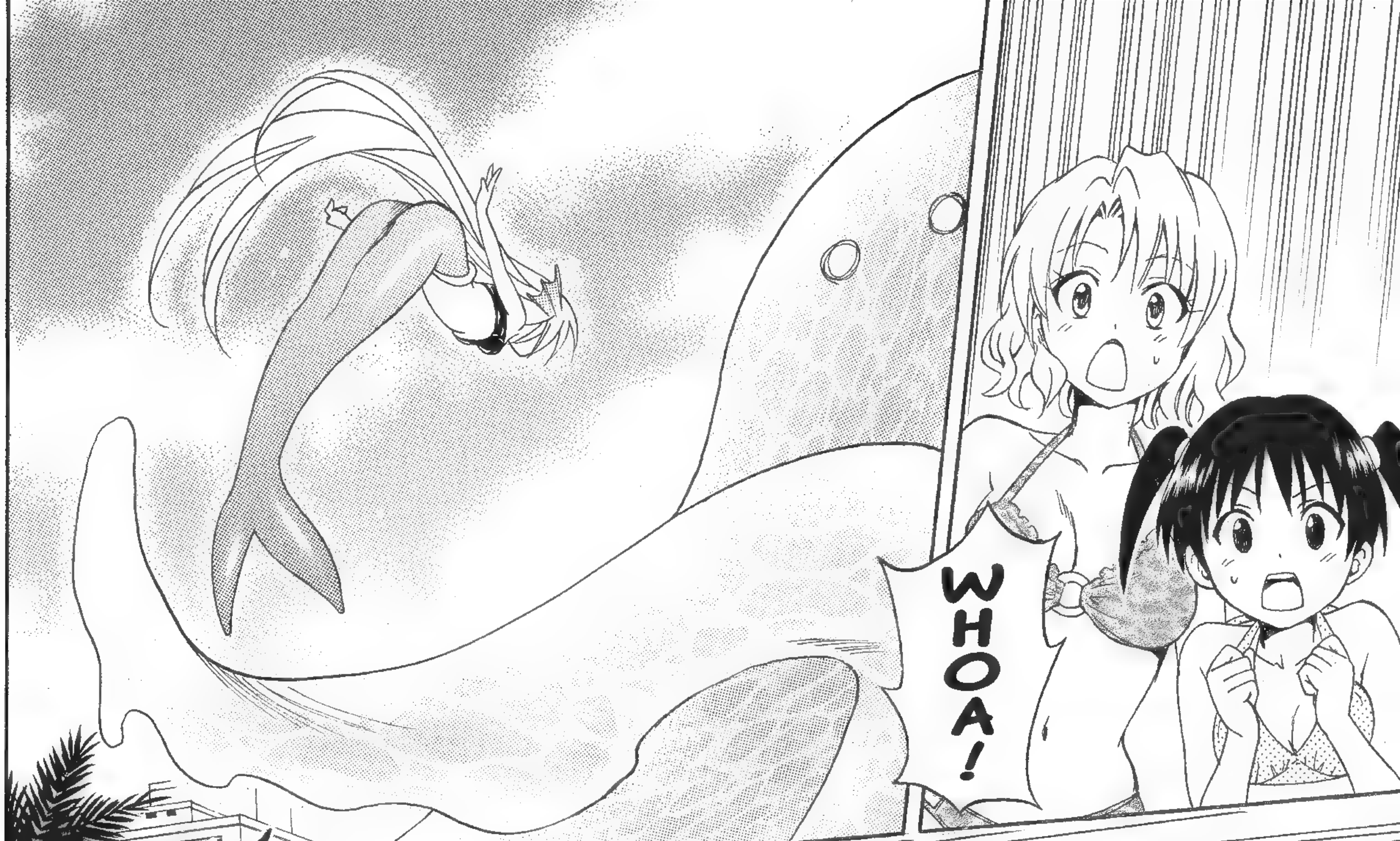
A CORE?!

IT'S GOT THIS CORE SOMEWHERE IN ITS BODY. WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO KNOCK IT OUT BY HITTING THE CORE!

I HEARD YOU.

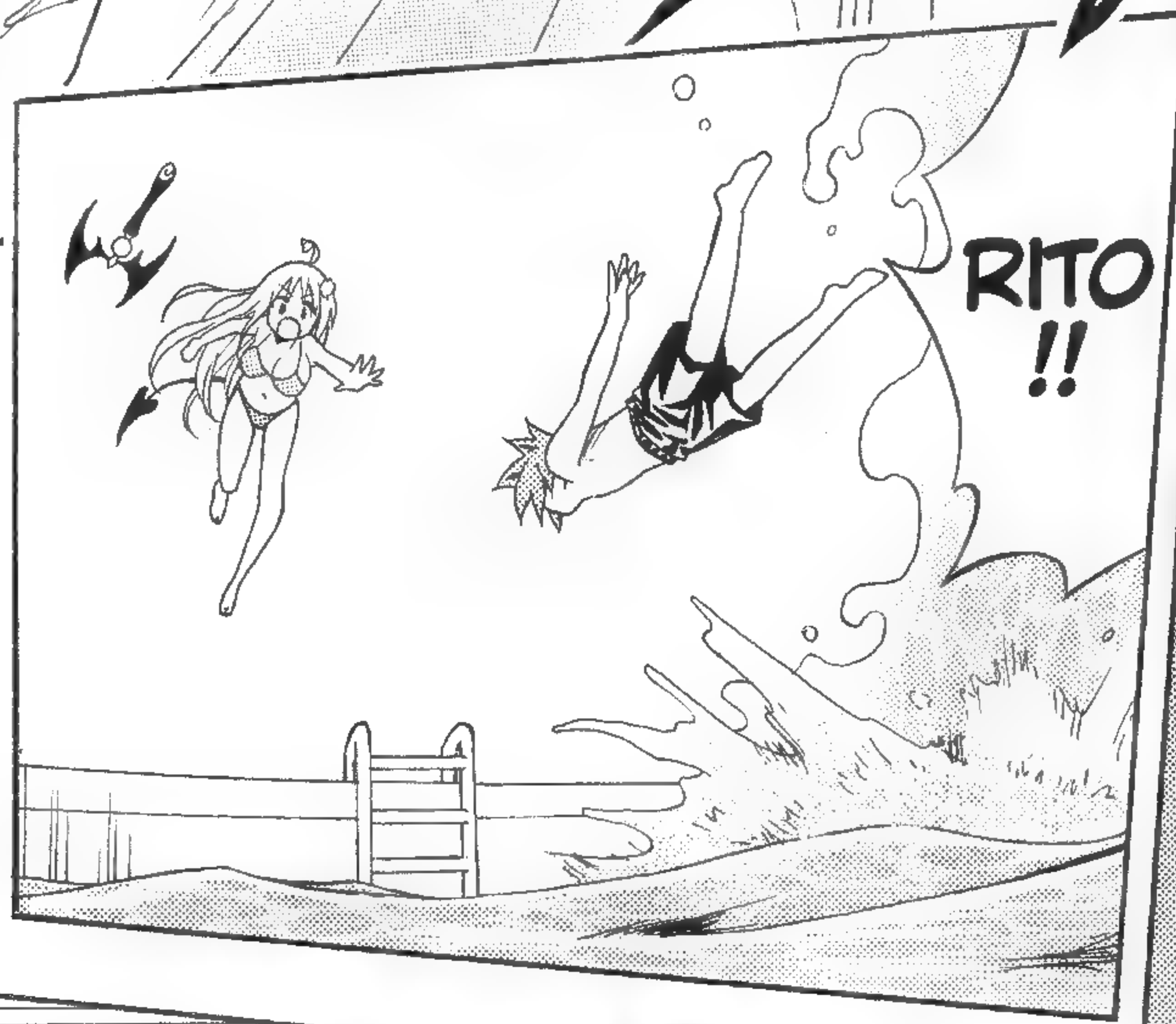
MERMAID FORM!!

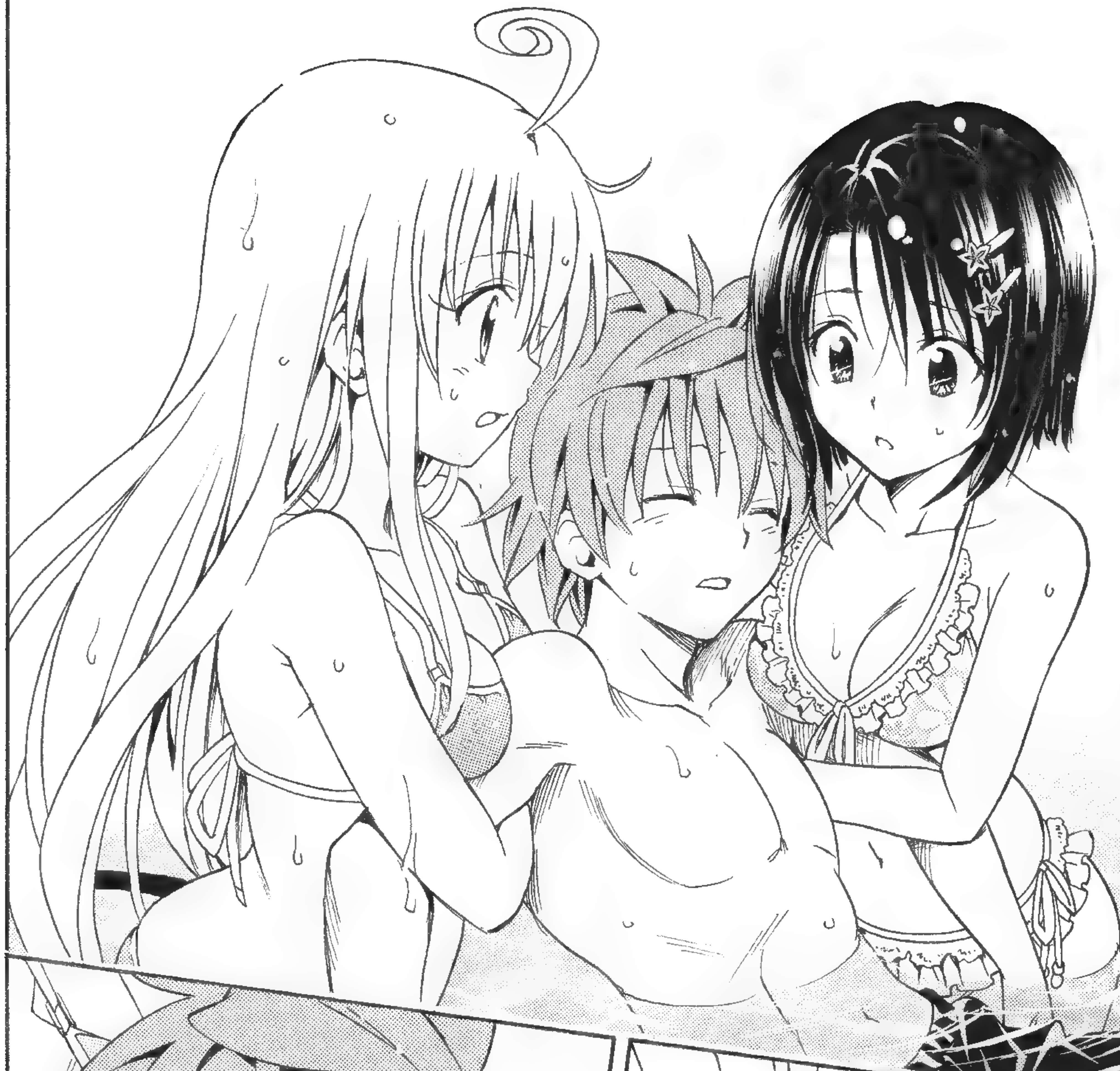
TRANSFORMATION:











LALA...
HARUNA...
CHAN...



I...

*I
LOVE
LALA.*

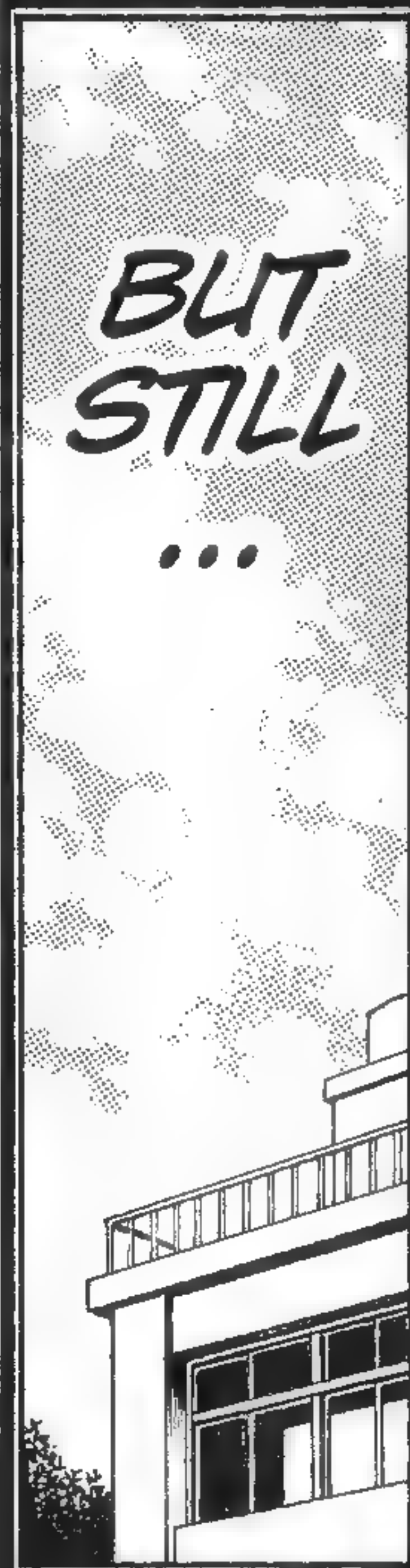
YEAH...

*JUST
MAKES
ME
FEEL
SO AT
EASE.*

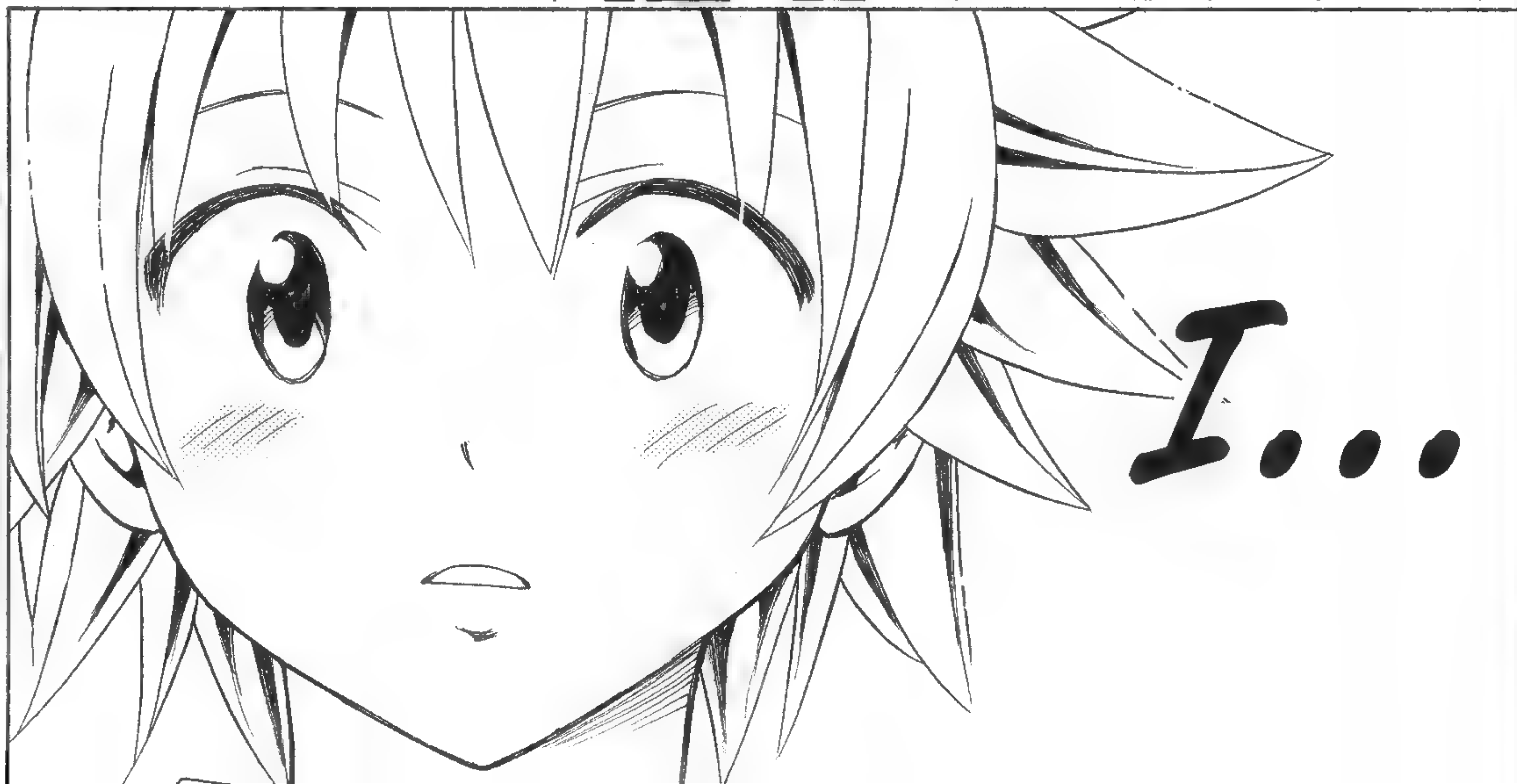
*SEEING
HER
SMILE...*



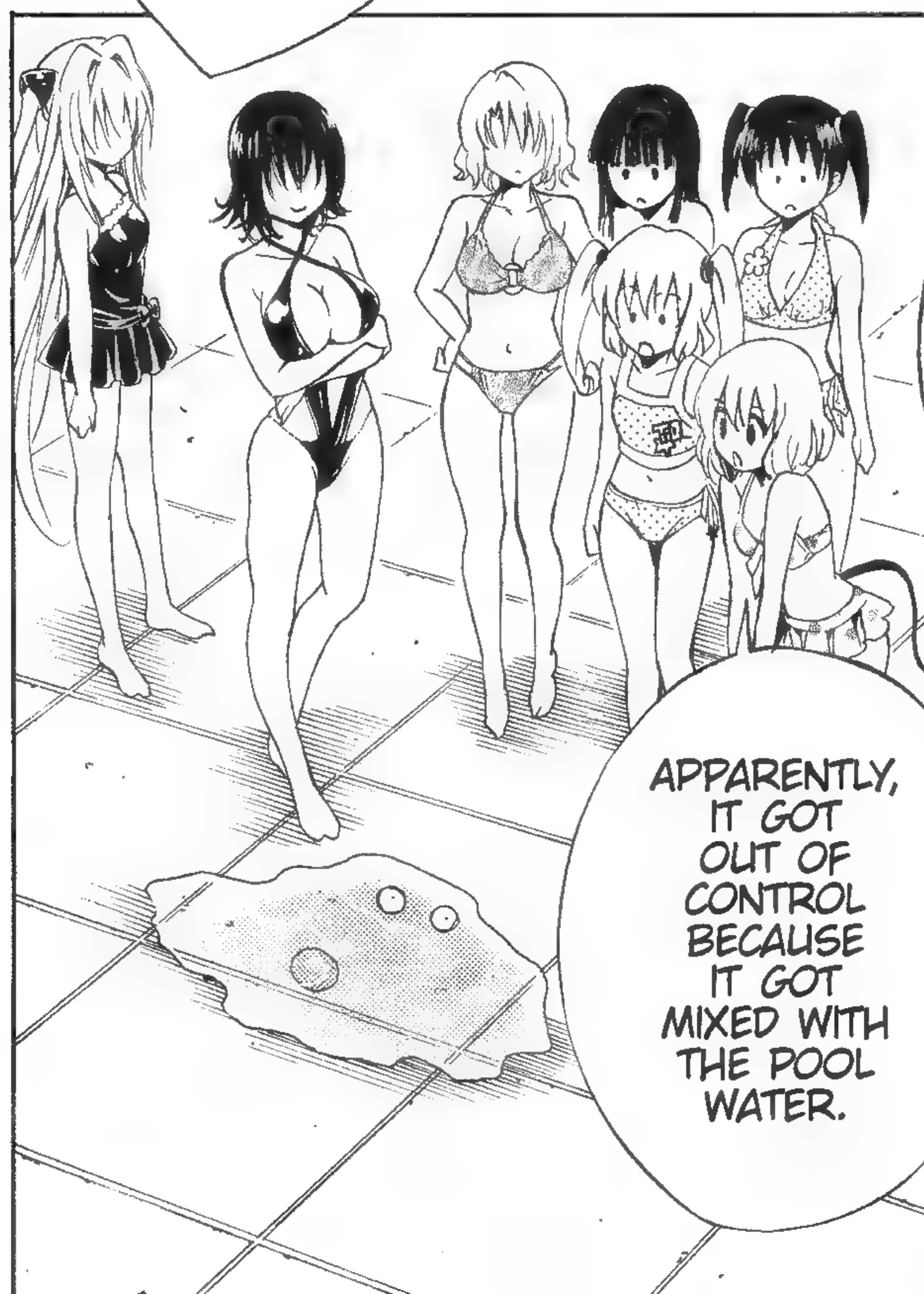
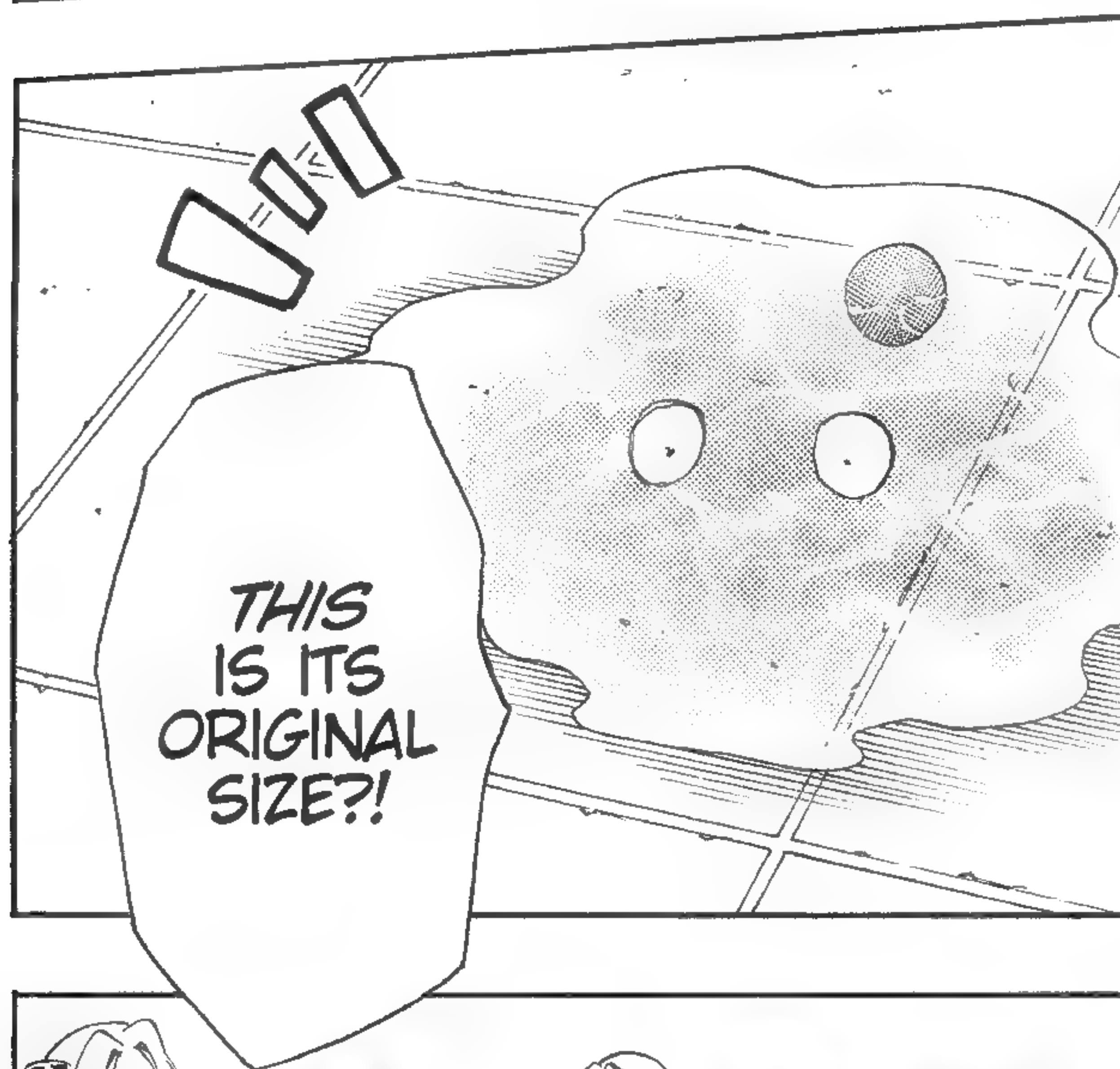
*BUT
STILL
...*



*BUT
STILL...*



I...





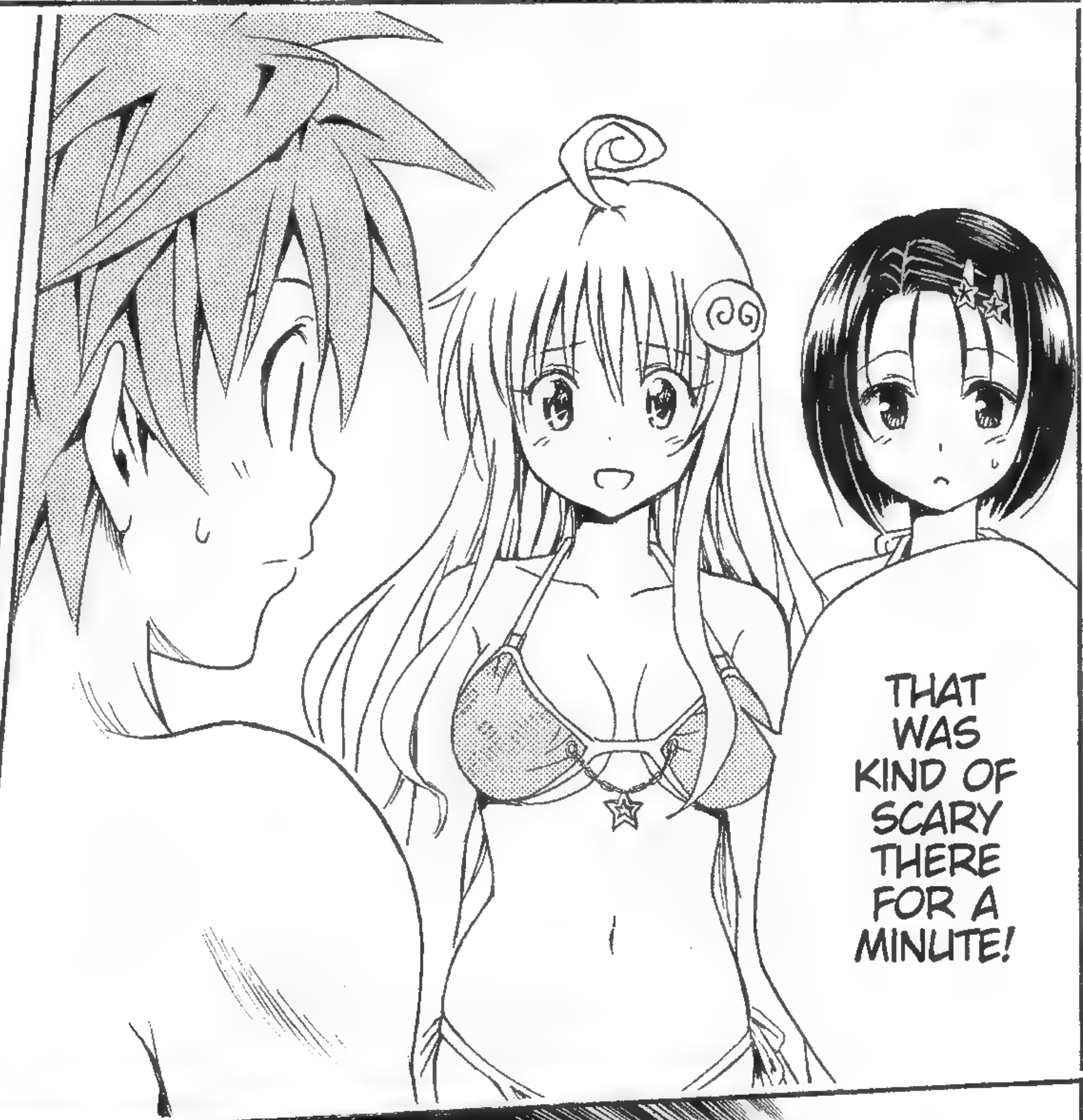
YEAH.

ARE
YOU
SURE
EVERYTHING'S
FINE NOW,
YUUKI-
KUN?

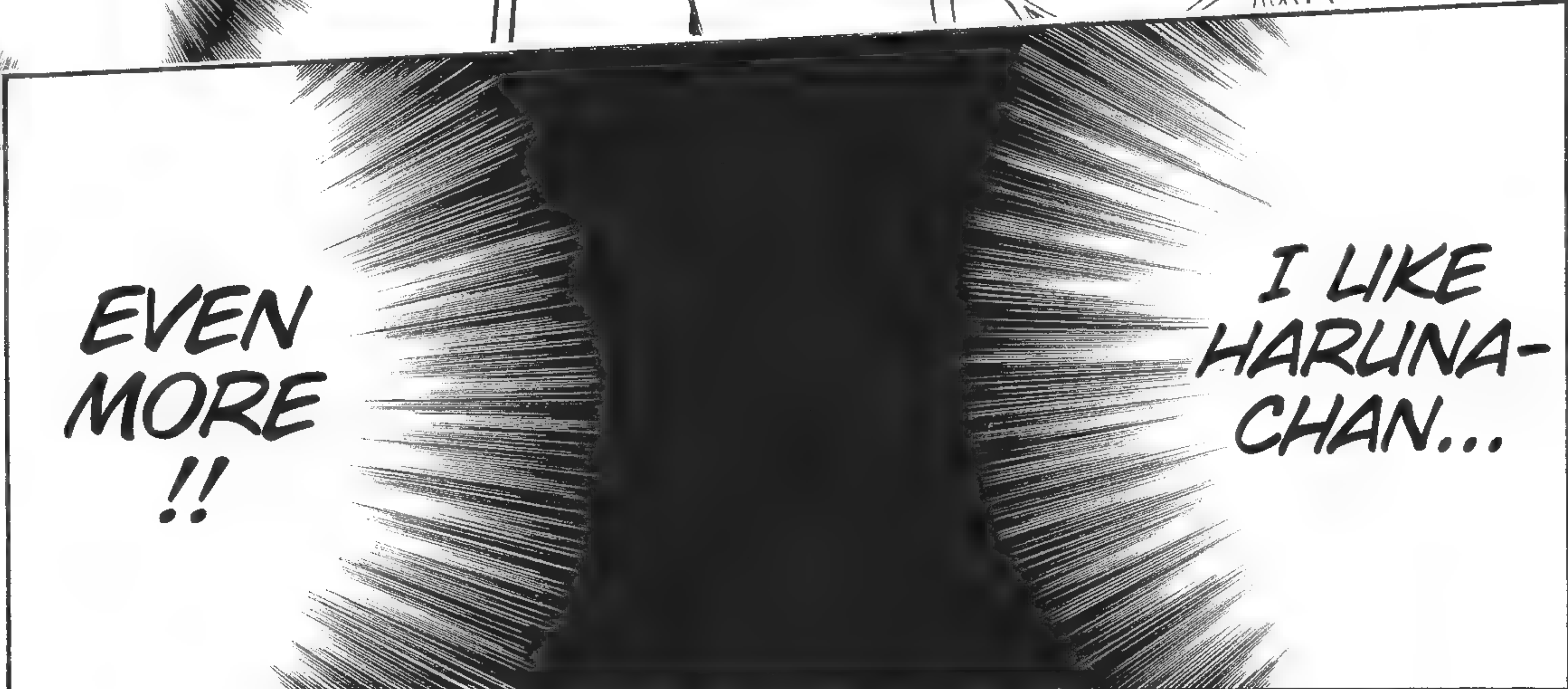


I...
DO
LIKE
LALA.

BUT...
BUT
STILL...



THAT
WAS
KIND OF
SCARY
THERE
FOR A
MINUTE!



EVEN
MORE
!!

I LIKE
HARLINA-
CHAN...

TO LOVERU

TROUBLE 162:
LOVE YOU!♡

THAT
SURE
WAS A LOT
OF FUSS.
AREN'T
YOU GLAD
THINGS
WORKED
OUT?



SHOWERS →

YEAH...
THERE'S
THIS
THING...

SO WHAT
IS IT YOU
WANTED TO
TALK TO
ME ABOUT
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?

YOU
KNOW
HOW I
TOLD YOU...
THAT I STILL
WASN'T SURE
EXACTLY HOW
I FELT
ABOUT
YOU?

I'VE
GOT TO
TELL
HER
HOW I
FEEL!

!



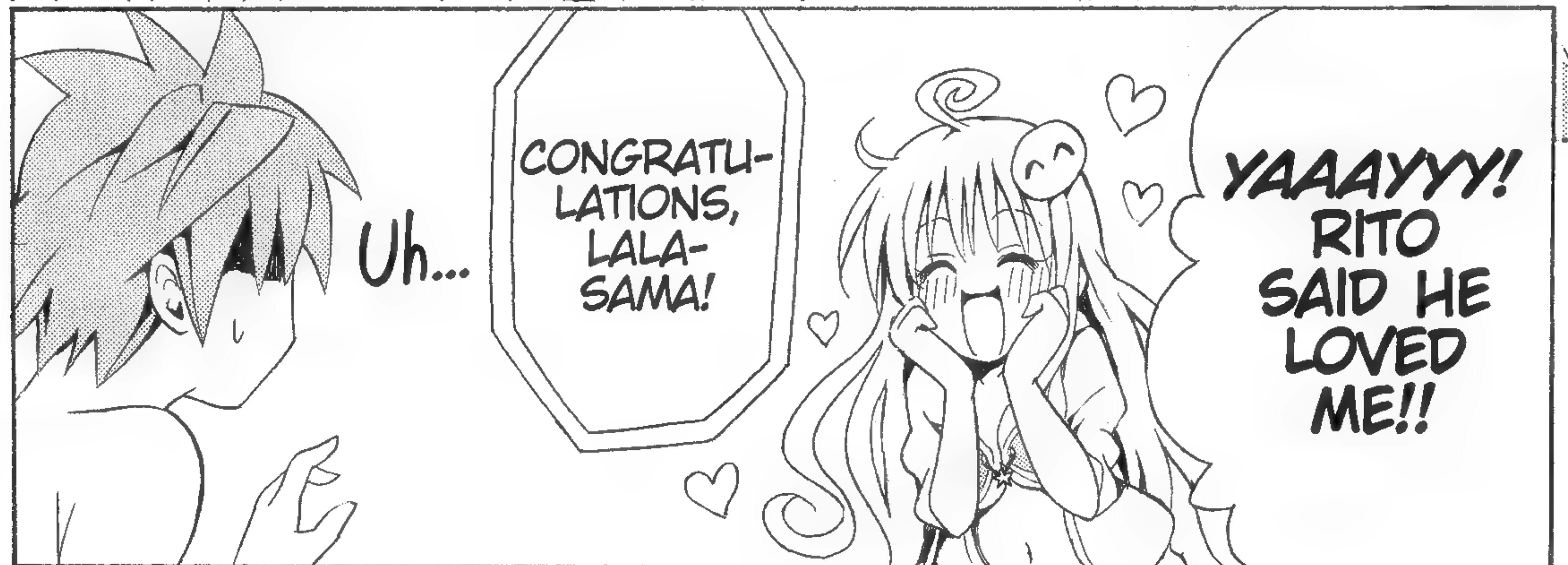
I
DO...
LOVE
YOU.

I'VE
FIGURED
IT
OUT.
I
REALIZED...



R-
REALLY
?!

WHAT
?!



Uh...

CONGRATU-
LATIONS,
LALA-
SAMA!

YAAAYYY!
RITO
SAID HE
LOVED
ME!!





HOW
DID
YOU
KNOW
?!

H-
H-
H-
H...



WHAT?
IT'S
REALLY
HARUNA
?!

YAA-
AAA-
AAA-
YYY!!



All
right!!

Woo-
hoo!

UH...
WHAT
KIND OF
REACTION
IS
THAT?

WHY
IS
LALA
ALL
"YAY"?



THINGS
COULDN'T
BE
BETTER!
♡

THIS IS
FANTASTIC!
I'M SOOO
HAPPY!
♡
RITO LOVES
ME, AND HE
LOVES
HARUNA
EVEN MORE!
♡




I GUESS I
SHOULDN'T
BE THE ONE
TO TELL
RITO THAT
HARUNA
LOVES HIM.

RIGHT,
THEN...




HUH?
UH...
UM,
LET'S
SEE...

WH-
WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN,
LALA?



HUH
?!



OKAY,
RITO!
TIME TO
GO TELL
HARUNA
HOW YOU
FEEL!!



BECAUSE
IF HARUNA
LOVES YOU
BACK, THEN
YOU CAN GET
MARRIED
TO BOTH
OF US!
♡



H-
HOW IS
THIS
WHAT'S
HAPPEN-
ING?!

COME
ON,
COME
ON!



AND IN
THE FIRST
PLACE,
I DON'T
KNOW IF
HARUNA-
CHAN WOULD
BE OKAY
WITH IT...

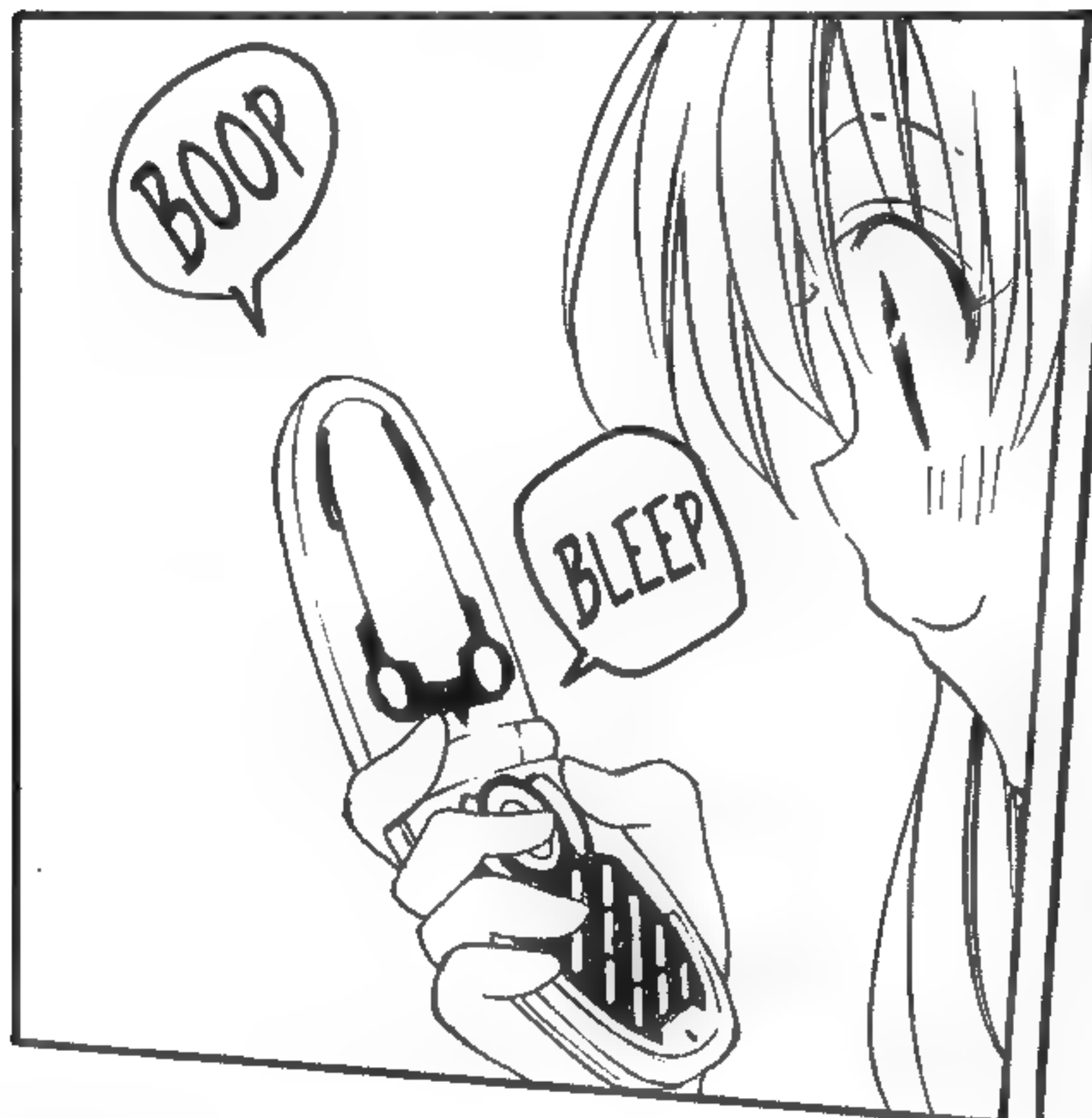
HEY,
LALA,
THAT KIND
OF THING
DOESN'T
FLY IN
JAPAN!!

ME, GET
MARRIED
TO YOU
AND
SAIRENJI?!
LIKE,
POLYGAMY
?!



ONCE
RITO-SAMA
IS KING
OF THE
UNIVERSE,
THE RULES
OF EARTH
WILL BE
IRRELEVANT.

IT'LL
BE FINE,
IT'LL
BE FINE!
RIGHT,
PEKE?



THAT
LALA...
SHE'S
TOO
OPEN-
MINDED
!!

THIS
IS
CRAZY
!!

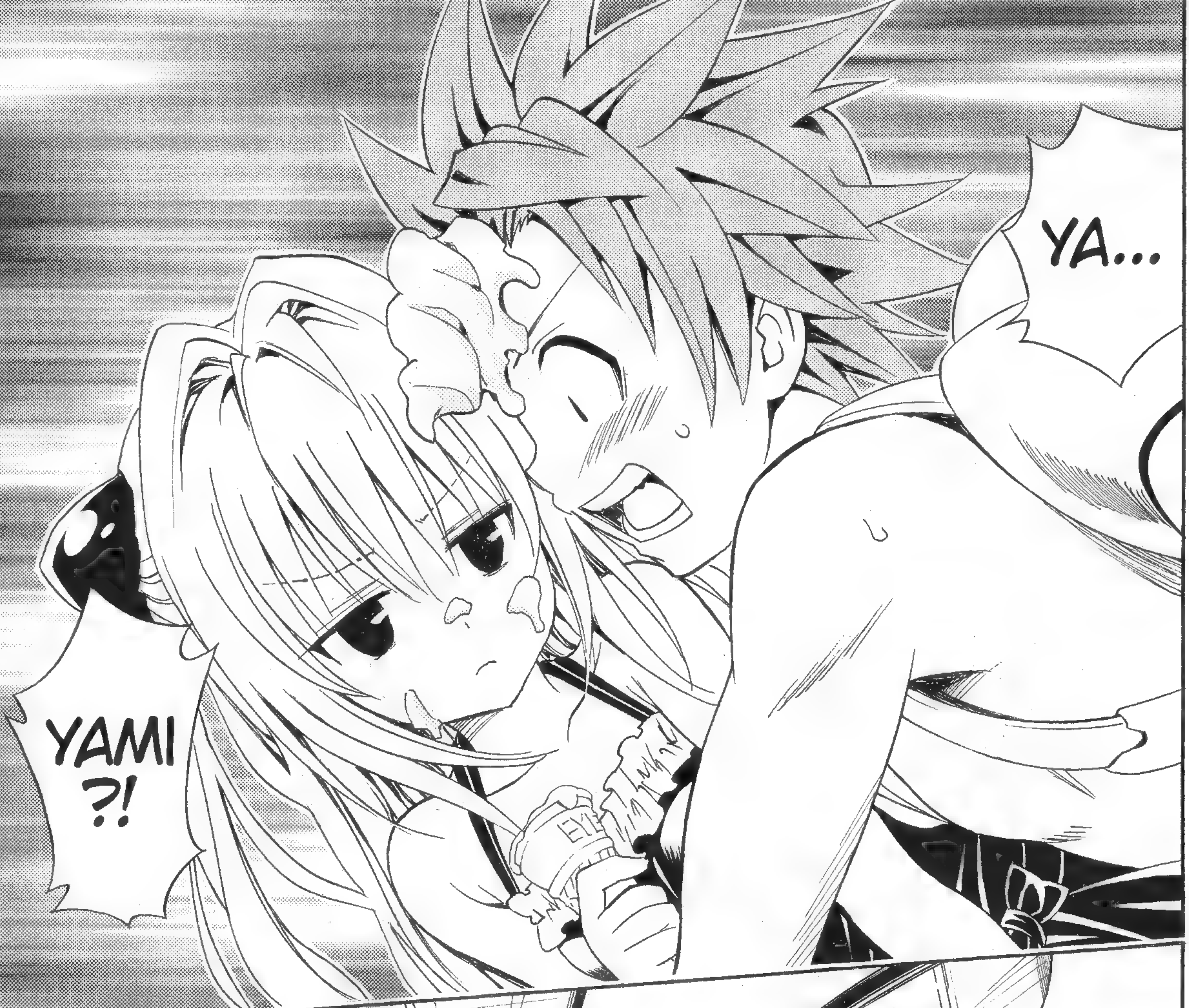


PUT
THIS
ON!



OOOKAY!
IT'S
TIME
TO GO
FIND
HARUNA
!!











YULKI-KUN.

MM?



AH
HA HA.
SERI-
OUSLY.

CAN YOU
BELIEVE
EVERYONE?
ALL THAT
CRAZINESS,
AND NOW
EVERYONE'S
JUST HAVING
A GOOD TIME
AGAIN.



THE
WAY YOU
STRUGGLED
SO HARD
TO SAVE
ME.

I...
REALLY
APPRECI-
ATED
IT.

BA-DMP...

THANK
YOU.

UH...
NAH...

I FEEL
LIKE
NOW'S
THE
TIME...

HARUNA-
CHAN...

NOW'S
THE
TIME TO
TELL HER
HOW I'VE
FELT ALL
THESE
YEARS.

EVEN
ASIDE
FROM
WHAT
LALA
WAS
SAYING...

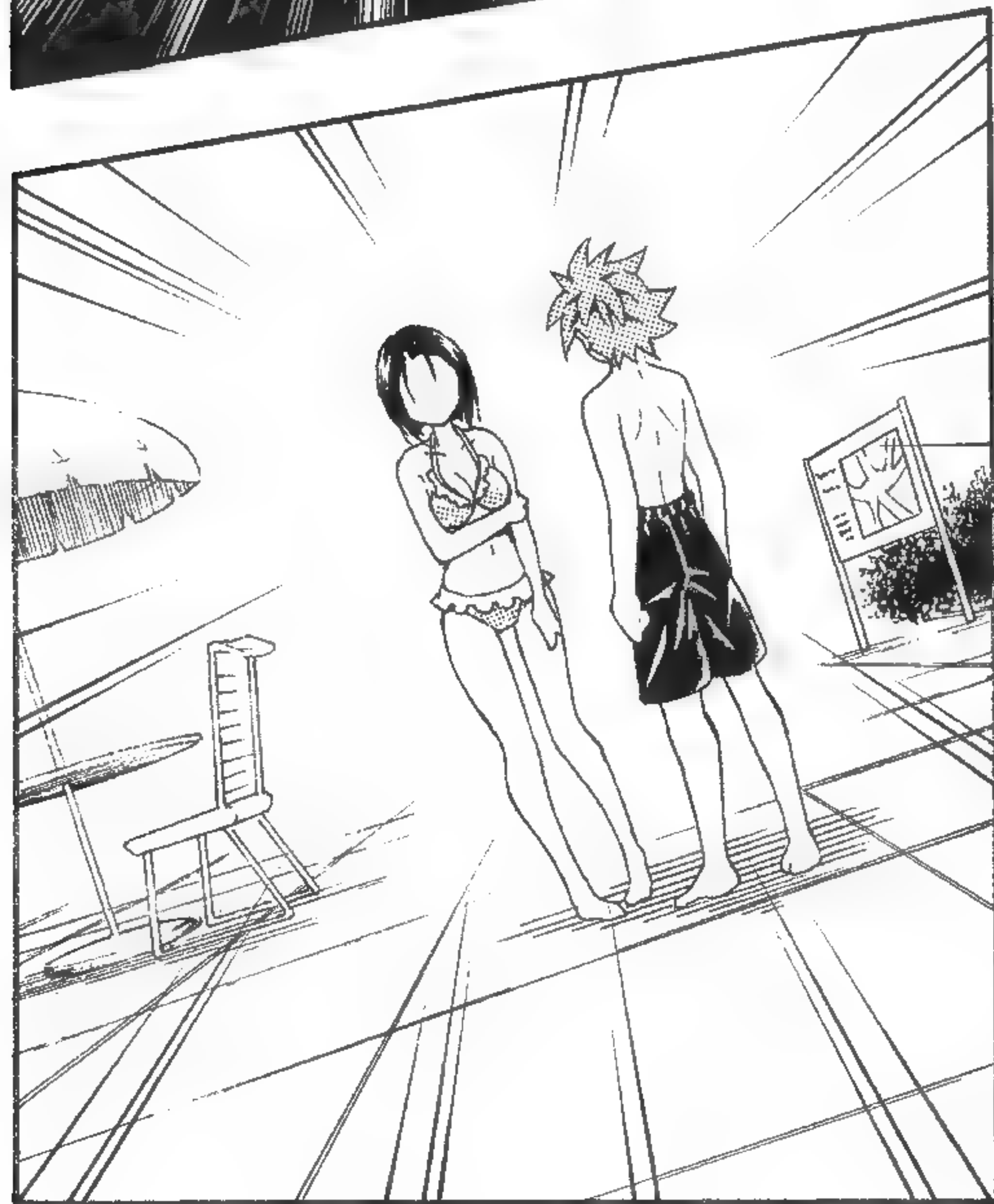
I...
HAVE
SOMETHING
I WANT
TO TALK
TO YOU
ABOUT.

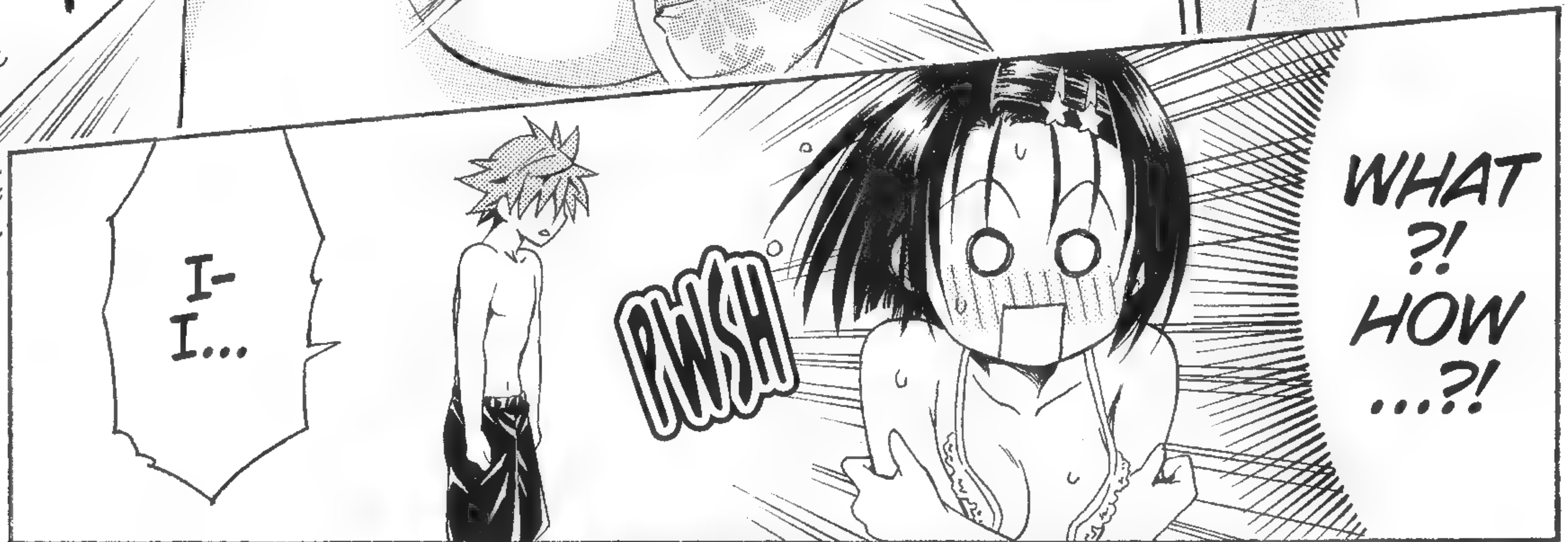
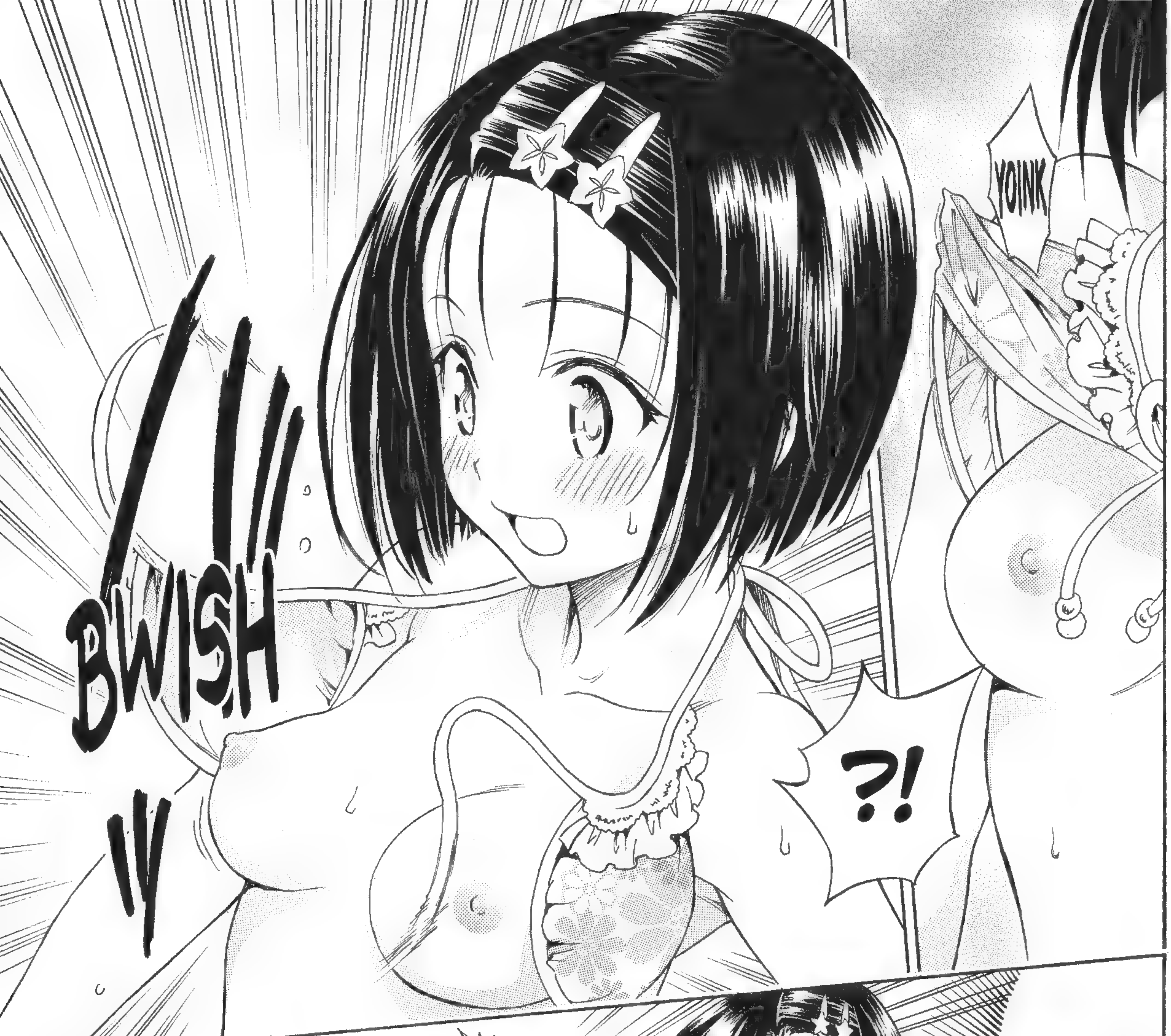
BA-DMP
BA-DMP
BA-DMP

S-
SAI-
RENJI!

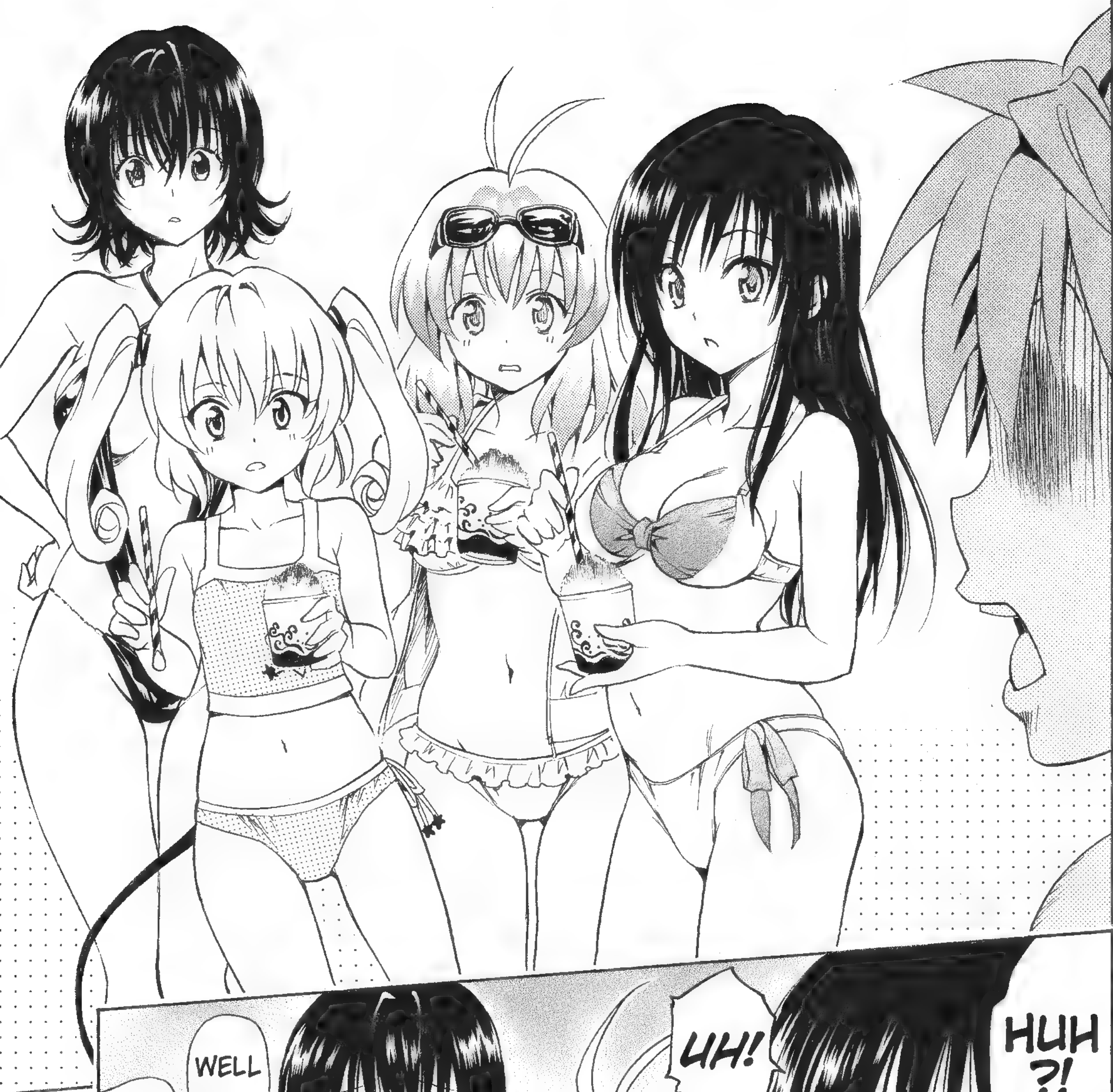
RITO-
SAN AND
HARUNA-
SAN, ALL
ALONE
TOGETHER!

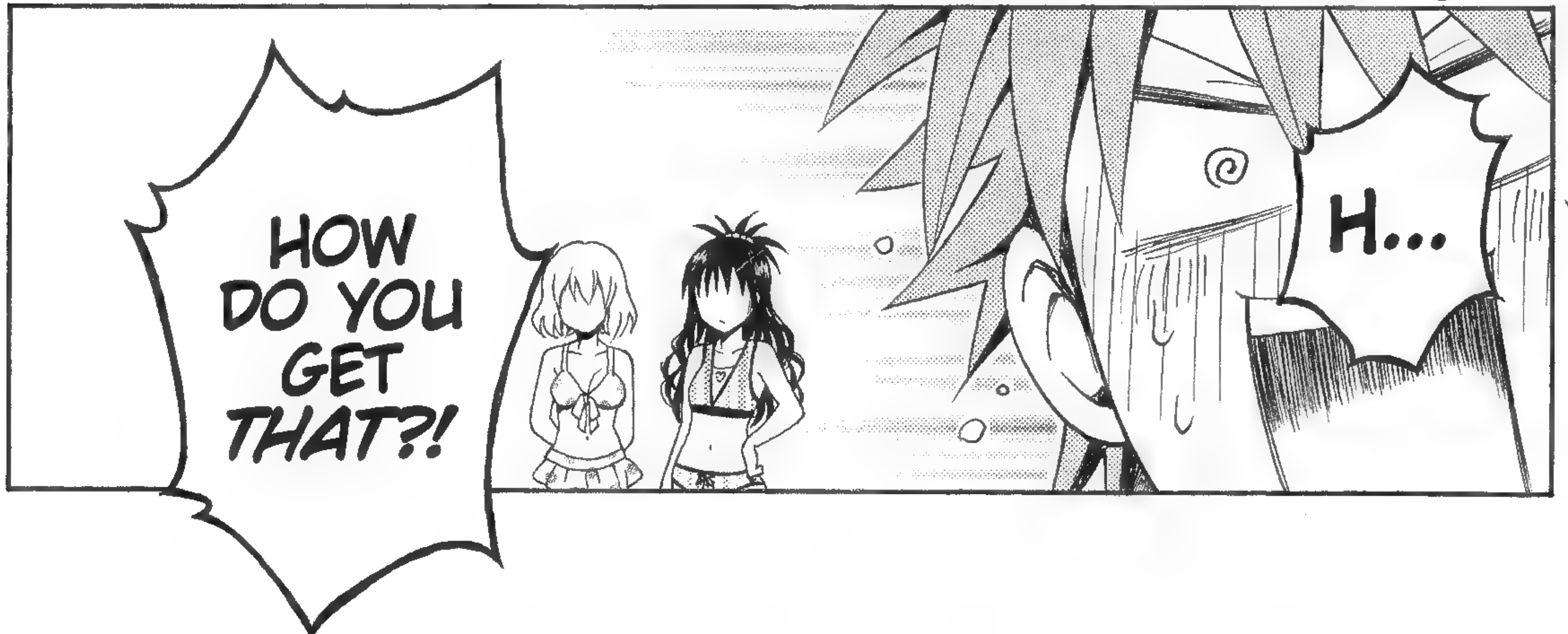
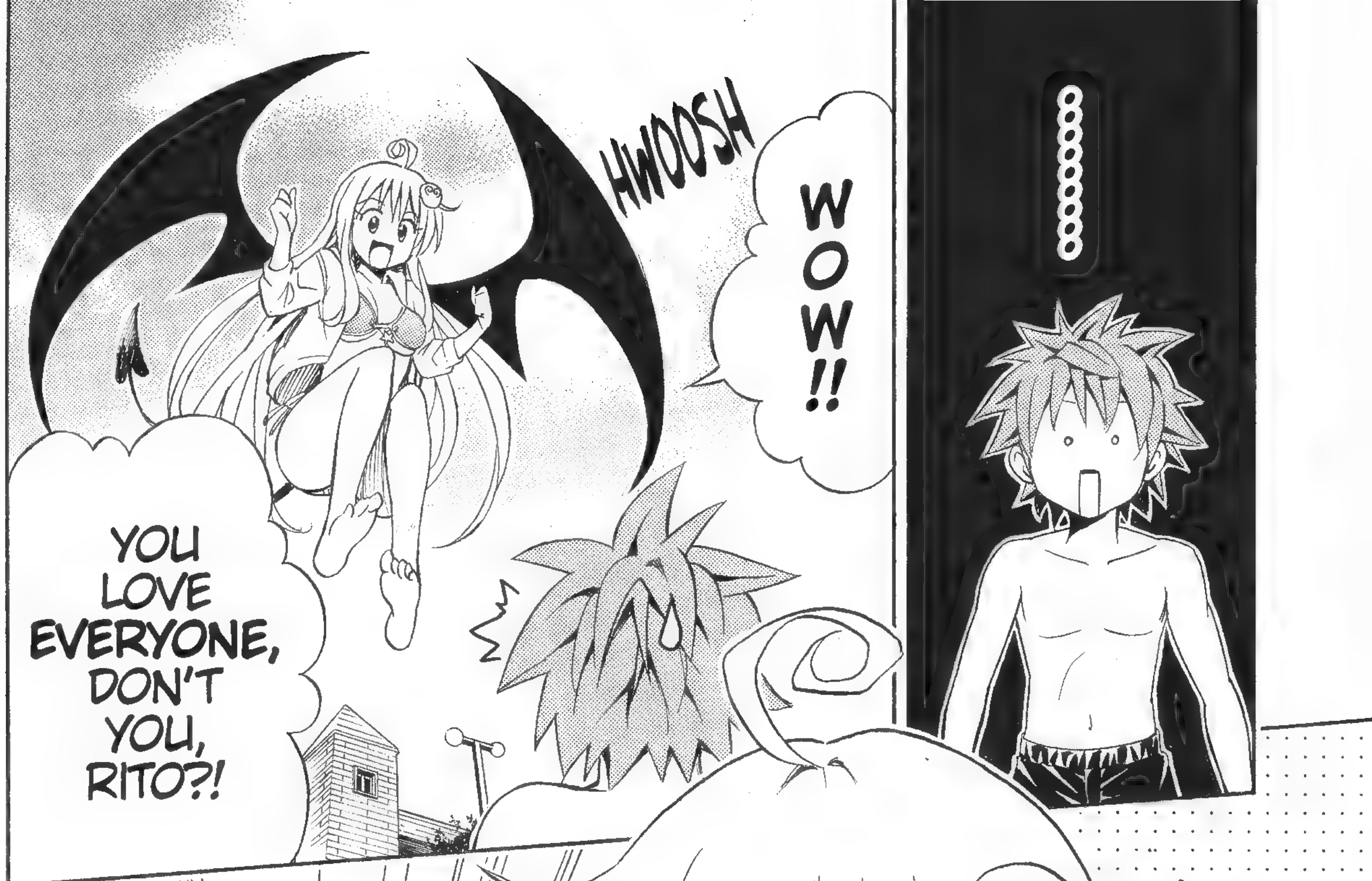
HMM
!!

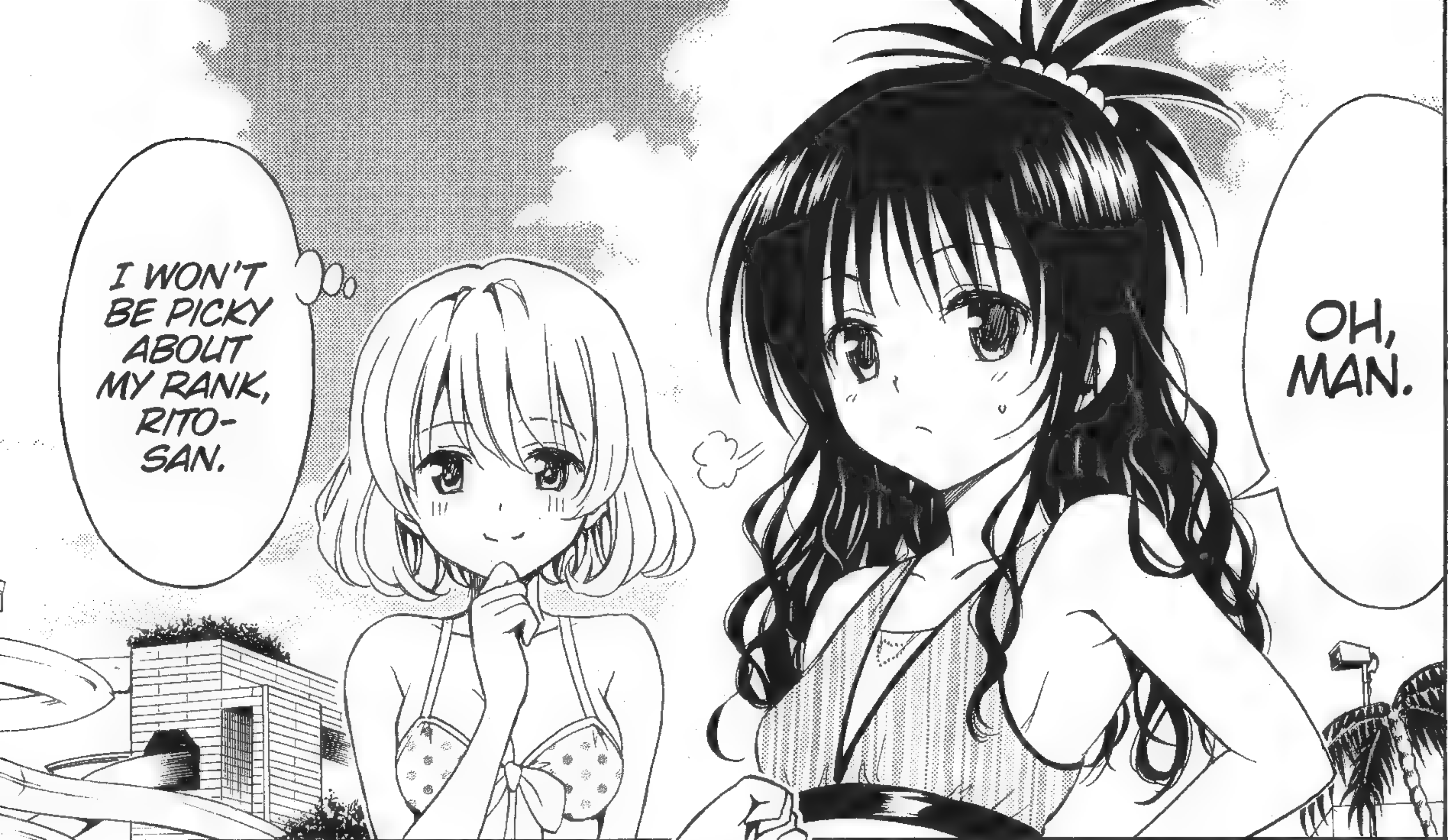
















LOVE YOU! ♥

The End

TO LOVERU



Kentaro Yabuki

Special Interview

Saki Hasemi

The no-holds-barred interview you've been waiting for! Mr. Uchida, the editor-in-charge of *To Love Ru* joins its authors to go over all things *TLR*—from the authors' first meeting to the secrets behind the final chapter!

UCHIDA: First off, why don't we go over how you two met?

YABUKI: How we met? [YABUKI laughs]

HASEMI: The fateful first meeting. [HASEMI laughs]

UCHIDA: You two first met at the script reading for the *Black Cat (BC)* anime, correct?

YABUKI: When the staff for the *BC* anime was coming together, I joined in for the first preliminary meetings, and I believe that's when we crossed paths...

HASEMI: Yeah, that's when it was. Oh, right, you didn't know us back then, did you?

UCHIDA: I hadn't been hired at *Jump* yet.

HASEMI: That's right. But, Yabuki-san, you were always there so early. [HASEMI laughs] I'd come in before anyone else, but I'd constantly walk in to find you sitting alone, reading through the script.

YABUKI: After that, we were meeting with each other every week. Later, there was a get-together before the series started airing, and I think that's when we first got a chance to talk one-on-one.

HASEMI: Yes, that's when it was. I had always wanted to try working on an original manga, and you told me to reach out if I had any questions. It was really just normal business talk. [both laugh]

UCHIDA: And then, that "business talk" ended up becoming a reality.

YABUKI: At the time, I wasn't immediately thinking about doing something together, but I had it in the back of my mind. And then, when it came time to come up with my new manga to follow up *BC*, I hit a bit of a brick wall. As an aside, this was when I came up with *Futagami ☆ Double* (Published in the double issue 3/4 of *Weekly Shonen Jump*, 2010). So, the editing department started suggesting I take things in a different direction, so I decided to try asking Hasemi-san for his ideas on the topic.

HASEMI: After he invited me to work together, my first idea was to make an all-out shounen battle manga, but I couldn't come up with a real hook to draw readers in. That's when I remembered Yabuki-san had mentioned wanting to do a rom-com style

manga, and once we started talking over it, we ended up coming with ideas for the manga rather easily. [HASEMI laughs]

YABUKI: We had been stumped for so long, but as soon as we started talking about a rom-com, we just dove right into it, didn't we?. [YABUKI laughs]

HASEMI: That's right. The fact that we were coming up with material left and right made me believe we could pull it off. Also, at that time, there weren't any limits on rom-com manga in Jump, either.

UCHIDA: And then, your serialization began.

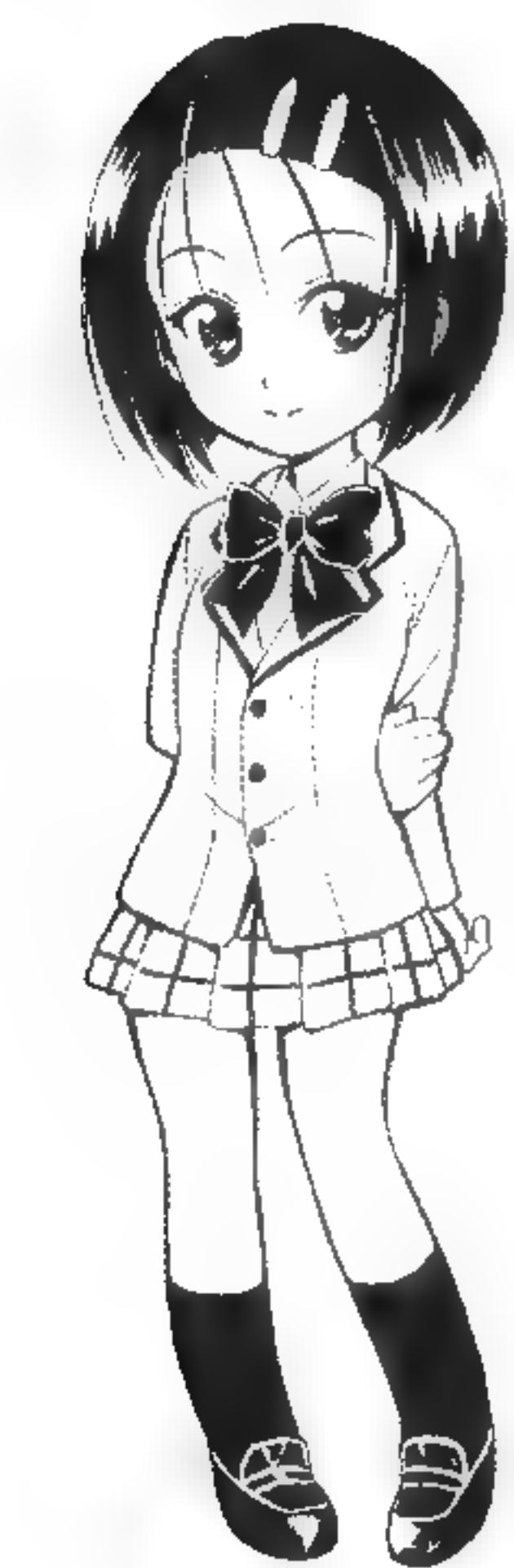
On the beginning of serialization...

YABUKI: First off, as soon as we decided on doing a romantic comedy, I worked on some initial character designs myself. I think I started with Rito and Lala? It began with me bringing Hasemi these drawings, and looking over them together while talking about what sort of story would work with the characters. I had just given Lala a devil's tail on a whim, but at that time, we hadn't even given any thoughts about her background—whether she was going to be a devil, or an alien—nothing like that. Our emphasis was on the visuals.

UCHIDA: At first, seeing Yabuki-san drawing such lewd scenes was quite the shock...

YABUKI: I mean, at the time, I never would have imagined those kinds of scenes would turn into the main focus of the manga. [YABUKI laughs]

HASEMI: At the start, we did talk about adding a bit of sexiness to the manga, though.



YABUKI: We had said we wanted the characters to be introduced with a full-page spread of them completely buck-naked, right?

UCHIDA: It was an eye-catching way to start the manga, wasn't it? A scheme to catch the readers' attention.

YABUKI: Yes, absolutely. Then, there was even a question on the reader survey about wanting even more eroticism in the story. That question got the strongest response out of them all. It was overwhelming! Since we had fun creating those sorts of scenes anyway, we were totally onboard, and shifted our focus towards the titillating scenes in the manga.

HASEMI: At the start, I had no idea that our manga would end up being *this* sexual...

YABUKI: Definitely, and as the series went along, it became more and more about testing Jump's limits to what they'd allow us to draw.

UCHIDA: I see, so you both looked to sort of up the ante as you went along then.

YABUKI: Also, there was some things that were changed from the storyboard we presented at the serialization meeting. Things like Haruna not having any feelings for Rito in the beginning.

HASEMI: Oh, that's right. Things got changed slightly to emphasize the love triangle

relationship a bit more. At the time, I wasn't used to writing for a weekly manga series, and my mind couldn't fit the ideas into a 19-page-per-chapter structure. Up until then, I had only worked on scripts for video games and anime series. I could consider things in terms of minutes, like I always had, but I still wasn't able to consider the story in terms of *pages*. When we first started, our editor at the time, Nakamura-san, would often come to us and say the so-and-so details I had added in weren't going to fit in the final chapter. I really had to adjust to that structure.

UCHIDA: Manga chapters in Jump are always 19-pages-per-chapter, after all. Is 19-pages too long? Too short?

YABUKI: It's short, I'd say. Especially when you start thinking about how to fit a self-contained episode in a 19-page chapter.

HASEMI: Very short. [HASEMI laughs] The biggest learning point for me was when Yabuki-san asked me not to change scenes so much. In an anime, you use scene changes to pause the action for a moment, or show the passage of time. It's a heavily used technique. But, in manga, things can become very difficult if you don't make sure the story can progress without changing the character's location too much. At our first meetings, we'd decide on things like, "well, in the case, where should we have this happen?" or "maybe it'd be better if we had this happen at school?"

YABUKI: That's right. The more scene changes there are, the more we need to add in expository panels, and we can't fit all of that within the 19 pages. If we were a more serious, plot-focused manga, we'd be able to use a bunch of big panels, but we always wrote *To Love Ru* (TLR) to be episodic.

HASEMI: Yeah, the basic approach we took was to have each chapter contain a self-contained plot and tried our best to make sure all the action took place in the same setting.

YABUKI: I think our longest story arc maxed out at around 6 chapters, right?

HASEMI: That's right, Trouble Quest was 6 chapters, wasn't it? Our standard was to keep even the longer stories to about 4 chapters.

UCHIDA: [Planet] Mistwa was 5 chapters.

HASEMI: Speaking of Mistwa; we had a hard time getting Celine to turn into a human, didn't we?



UCHIDA: We did talk about turning her into a beautiful girl before that arc. Still though, I never thought you'd turn her into such a *little* girl. [UCHIDA laughs]

YABUKI: Well, part of it was that she didn't have place in the story to begin with since she was a new character, and she was basically reborn then and there. Also, if she was little, then there'd be opportunities to show her growing up.

UCHIDA: I had some revisions for you relating to Celine, didn't I?

YABUKI: Around then was when Ucchi here really came into his editing skills, and started giving us revisions without any reservations at all. [YABUKI laughs]

UCHIDA: The trial-by-fire had finally shown some results.

YABUKI: [Laughs]

On serialization...

UCHIDA: The running theme for my meetings with you two was thinking up ways to create the erotic situations that appeared in the manga.

HASEMI: It definitely got a lot more difficult to come up with them, heading into our second year. Having Rito fall down and accidentally touch someone had been worn out, for example. That's why when we *did* still have those scenes, Yabuki-san would try changing the angle in the scene, or make the girl character the person falling down, instead of Rito. It was those sort of subtle changes really...

YABUKI: That's right, even during our initial outlines, everything would be written out the same way. It gave me a lot of trouble when it came time to draw. I still agonize about drawing shower scenes, even in *Mayoi Neko Overrun!* (serialized in *Jump Square*, starting in the Feb. Issue of 2010). We've used up every available angle in *TLR*, so no matter what I did, it ended up feeling like I was drawing the same things over and over again.



UCHIDA: The ways Rito would touch the girls got pretty intense in the later chapters, didn't it? I'd read and think to myself, "now how in the world did his fingers end up in *there*?" [Everyone laughs]

YABUKI: Well by the time we got halfway through the serialization, just touching the girls wasn't enough to satisfy our readers.

UCHIDA: Every week was a battle with the editing department, really.

YABUKI: They'd push so hard, but there'd still be times when things would end up getting cut before it was time to publish.

Indeed, totally dropped from the chapter. Actually, the first chapter in this final volume has two extra pages added in. Though, I'll have to keep the reason behind the extra two pages a secret. [UCHIDA laughs]

Your favorite stories...

UCHIDA: Do you two have a favorite story arc?

YABUKI: Hmm... I'd say most of my favorite chapters involve Mikan. Besides her, I'd say Yui maybe?

HASEMI: This isn't so much about whether they were interesting or not, but I think many of my favorite chapters are Yui chapters because of how polished they were. I really liked the Valentine's Day chapter (appears in Vol. 16), and I think she really shows her feminine side in that one. You know, how she's all fidgety and nervous about what she's going to do for Valentine's Day, works up the courage to try making some chocolate, and then becomes self-conscious about giving it to Rito. Gets help from her brother, and everything. The chapters that, if anything, have a more shojo manga vibe to them. What about you, Yabuki-san? What's your favorite?

YABUKI: My absolute favorite? It's really hard to choose...

HASEMI: Nothing really comes to mind, does it? There's so many that you look back on fondly, but you can't simply point to one declare it your favorite.

YABUKI: See, for the most part, I put my heart and soul into every single chapter. I'd say my favorite chapters are the ones where I felt I did a good job on the erotic scenes. Hmm, what's a good example...



UCHIDA: I'd say my personal favorite chapter is probably the one that featured those glasses that could see through everyone's clothes (appears in Vol. 13).

YABUKI: Ah, that one might be the best chapter to point to as an example of what TL is all about.

UCHIDA: That was a very good chapter. That was the one we published in Jump's 40th anniversary issue.

HASEMI: The one I found really amusing after I wrote it was the chapter about Yui's panties (appears in Vol. 16). That was one hell of a meeting we had for that one. We spent the whole time talking about panties. [Everyone laughs] We only decided on making sure there were scenes where you could almost see her panty-less nether regions, and didn't talk about anything regarding

the chapter's overall story. Still, we managed to come up with something out of it. That one was pretty funny.

It's amazing that that's all you needed to come up with something. The only thing you had to go on was Yui being flustered about losing her panties, after all. Incredible, really.

YABUKI: The other ones I liked were when Yui or Mikan caught a cold. I'd think I'd say I liked those chapters? Adding in those kinds of stories every now and again brings a bit of a different atmosphere to the manga, so it's fun from the authors' side of things, too. Most of the rest of the time it's non-stop perversion, after all.

HASEMI: No matter how much I try, I can't choose an absolute favorite, though there is a bunch that I really like. In all meanings of the word, I have an emotional attachment to each and every chapter we've made.

YABUKI: That's a good point. I'm extremely particular when it comes both to the scenes and setting of a manga, as well as the actual art involved, so it's hard to pick a number 1.

HASEMI: As far as scenes go, the one that really made me think, "man, Yabuki-san's insane," came in the dolphin chapter (appears in Vol. 3). [The other two acknowledge HASEMI and they all laugh.] The dolphin goes out of control and sticks itself in between Lala's breasts. That wasn't in the script I wrote. [HASEMI laughs]

YABUKI: That's right. That scene came about from me expanding on the storyboard a little bit.

HASEMI: Reading that chapter really made me think that Yabuki-san was on top of his game. So in that sense, I'd say that chapter left a bit of an impression on me.

YABUKI: In the latter half, things really just escalated and got wilder and wilder.

HASEMI: That and, everyone's boobs just kept looking softer and softer with every chapter. [everyone laughs]

YABUKI: I never stopped studying how to draw breasts.

UCHIDA: It's honestly incredible. The way Rito's fingers would just sink into the characters' breasts would make you wonder just how it was even possible for something to be so soft. We're using that style of drawing breasts as a reference for our newer authors, you know.

HASEMI: But, honestly, this series is very hard to write. Paradoxically, it can be easier on the author to make the actual story and plot of a series more complicated—there's a sense of world-building that's involved. You know, like having the So-and-So people from the world of So-and-So, use their energy, or whatever. But, there's *none* of that in *TLR*. We rely entirely on using visuals and emotions to get everything across.

UCHIDA: It means you can't ever try to pull the wool over the readers' eyes.

YABUKI: Because of that fact, we were really careful about making sure *TLR* was easy to read, and I myself made sure to limit each page to 6 panels, max. We also deliberately made an effort not to use any distorted panel structures.

On *To Love Ru's* cast of characters...

YABUKI: In the latter half, we really treated all the girls like the main heroines of the story. Even Mikan was treated as a main heroine.

HASEMI: Mikan's the housewife character, after all. She's pretty much Rito's de-facto wife.



UCHIDA: You always had her licking ice cream.

YABUKI: We just thought that there wasn't many overly sexy and erotic little sister characters in rom-com manga, so...

UCHIDA: She's just as sexy as the others, isn't she? Though, Momo's the same, really. Hasemi-san, you really like the twins, didn't you?

I wanted to have Yami be a pair of twins. Like a light twin and a dark twin.

YABUKI: So, we decided to use that idea sometime further down the line.

HASEMI: I really wanted to introduce a pair of twins. For Nana and Momo, we first thought about having them combine together to turn into like, a sexy older woman-type of character.

YABUKI: That idea came up right when we started thinking about what unique abilities we were going to give the twins.

HASEMI: We really spent a long time thinking over their personalities. While not totally original, we settled on having one love animals, and the other love plants.

YABUKI: Well, we also had a pretty hard time making sure their personalities wouldn't overlap with the other characters, too.

HASEMI: The newer the character, the more we had to work to clearly map out and establish the character's personality. That's why the latter half of the manga featured a lot more quirky and unique characters.

YABUKI: It was amazing how much Nana and Momo stood out in the latter half of the series. Those two had really great development. Their characters sort of gradually changed throughout the series, similar to Yui, actually.

UCHIDA: Oshizu was even able to get a body of her own.



YABUKI: With Oshizu, we were apprehensive about giving her a body, because we were worried that she'd lose her unique charm.

HASEMI: Oshizu was originally just a side character for the haunted school building chapter, after all.

UCHIDA: She was just there to put the other cast into suggestive situations. [UCHIDA laughs]

YABUKI: [Laughs] Her character quirks certainly came in handy. For one, since she was a ghost, we could have her separate her soul from her body.

UCHIDA: Just from our conversation now, you'd be able to create a version of the story completely devoid of Lala and Haruna, couldn't you?

YABUKI: Indeed. I get the feeling that you'd be able to write a whole chapter about any of the characters without too much difficulty.

HASEMI: At the end of it all, Mio's about the only one who we couldn't write a whole chapter for. [HASEMI laughs]

YABUKI: Ah, you're probably right. Though if we continued the manga just a bit longer, I bet we'd get there for her, too.

UCHIDA: I feel like she slowly got more depth to her character. Like how she enjoys cosplay.

YABUKI: But, when it was time for Risa's chapter, we were really taking quite the risk.

HASEMI: That's right, we thought that up almost right after our meeting confirming our serialization.

YABUKI: Yeah, that's when it was—that's about the only time you can take a risk like that. [YABUKI laughs] Everyone's individual personality really stands out when they're given a starring role in a chapter.

HASEMI: It wasn't until the second year that we really started to have chapters dedicated to a specific character. Though, it would've been nice if we had done a better job at establishing Saki's place in the story...





UCHIDA: When we talked about whether or not to have the characters to move up a year in school, the fact Saki would graduate came up, didn't it?

HASEMI: In our third year of serialization, it really felt like we'd have to have all the main cast become third-year students. We thought up the pros and cons to having them move up a grade like normal or stay where they were, and ended up settling on having everything stay the same.

YABUKI: Though really, the deciding factor was simply that having them move up a year meant Saki would be gone. [YABUKI laughs]

UCHIDA: You did think about having her repeat her final year, or having her fail her college entrance exams.

HASEMI: Even if Rito and the other second-year students in the story became third-years, that'd probably mean that there'd be new characters to pop up from the incoming first year students. [HASEMI laughs]

UCHIDA: Also, if they moved up a year, then Mikan would, too...

YABUKI: That's right, she'd attend a new school...

UCHIDA: And she'd have to start wearing a school uniform, too...

YABUKI: At that stage of things, that wasn't an option.

HASEMI: There it is! Yabuki-san's main reason for scrapping the whole idea!

YABUKI: That's right. [YABUKI laughs]

HASEMI: He said "We can't have Mikan grow up!"

YABUKI: Right—that was our conclusion at the time.

UCHIDA: To have Mikan stay younger?

YABUKI: I guess you could say it was about her character attributes, but having her appearance change, and her clothes switch to a school uniform—it'll all make it seem like she was growing up. We felt that TLR hadn't gotten to that stage of the story yet. Though, if we had kept on going, who knows what would've happened.

HASEMI: I really wish we could've done more stuff with Yami.

YABUKI: Good point, a lot of the material we thought up ended up not getting used. Like having Celine transform into a beautiful girl. (A sketch of her is included in this very volume!)

HASEMI: Or about having [Celine] transform on the night of a full moon. Then, didn't we talk about having it go in a sort of fairy-tale like direction where the man she meets that night she falls in love with?

YABUKI: That's right, the image we had for her was part Princess Kaguya, and part this princess of some alien race of plant people.



HASEMI: Before we realized it, we had come up with the name Celine for her.

YABUKI: I think I was the one that came up with her name? As a punch line, Celine came to live in Rito's backyard, but TLR isn't a comedy manga where everything gets reset back to normal at the end of a chapter. Somewhere along the line, she settled into the story, and even grew as a character. Characters can grow and develop in some surprising ways. I didn't really expect Celine to turn into a young girl. I didn't think Yui would end up being such a serious love interest character, either. [YABUKI laughs]

HASEMI: Yui really had the most growth as a character, didn't she? From her first appearance up to where she really started to have feelings for Rito.

UCHIDA: Speaking of characters really *changing*, I'd say Yami would be another one. She really changed a lot, didn't she?

YABUKI: Yes, she mellowed out.

HASEMI: I thought that Yami's character development was on-target with our initial estimations for her, honestly.



Yui was the character who was supposed to show off the most growth in the story. The other characters in TLR weren't supposed to deviate too much—or, rather—their character designs were already complete, to a certain extent. So, I thought that it'd be nice to have a least one character among them that under goes some change, and we pushed that specific character attribute onto Yui. The other characters wouldn't really bring up the perverted stuff Rito had done to them in previous chapters, but Yui alone would make sure to bring it up.

HASEMI: She'd really care when Rito would see her boobs, and other stuff like that. Right, right, that's what I mean. Momo and Nana are a bit similar to her in that regard, too. It felt like based on what Rito had done to them over the story, their personality slowly changed little by little and fleshed out their characters.

UCHIDA: Also, I think you'd put Nana in that more growth-oriented group of characters, too.

YABUKI: True. I didn't think she'd end up being the type of character to be so harsh on Rito when he did things to Momo. Thinking about it more, there's Motemitsu, too! You loved him, Hasemi-san.

HASEMI: Motemitsu would always disappear from the chapter whenever I looked at the storyboard. [HASEMI gives a pained look.]

YABUKI: There were a lot of times when Hasemi-san would have Motemitsu show up in a chapter outline, but to get the page count right, I'd always have to cut him out of the chapter.

It's really too bad what happened with him... (We've omitted the rest of Hasemi-san's response here, as he becomes lost in thoughts about his favorite side character.)

UCHIDA: I also didn't think that Magical Girl Kyoko would become an actual character in the story, either.

YABUKI: Right? With our serialization going on for so long, we really started to feel like we could get away with doing anything we wanted.

After Trouble Quest, with Run becoming a celebrity...

...the idea came up about having Kyoko show up in the story, too.

HASEMI: Really? So Trouble Quest was what sparked the idea?

UCHIDA: That's right, the Riko chapter was also quite amazing, wasn't it? (Appears in Vol. 12.)

YABUKI: Oh, Riko? I never expected the Riko chapter to get such a response from the readers. [YABUKI laughs] I was shocked at how positive the reader surveys were for that chapter.

UCHIDA: Let's see, TLR was ranked sixth around that time, right?

HASEMI: Our first top ten rating in who knows how long...

UCHIDA: If I remember correctly, the next chapter ended up being ranked ninth, too. You even got some female votes included for that chapter. Maybe girls like seeing boys be forced to dress up in women's clothes like that? It could've been that a lot of girls who thought like that put in their votes for the chapter.

About the end of the manga...

HASEMI: Originally, we organized the end of the manga to give Lala, Haruna, and Rito each a chapter to get their feelings in order, and then have one final chapter. At least, it would've been that way, had we decided on Rito choosing just one of the girls, but we ended up going over the ending for the series in meetings over and over again. While we were all wracking our brains about what to do, Yabuki-san suggested that rather than have Rito end up with someone in particular, to have it end without him choosing anyone. When he first said that, I was a little bit skeptical of the idea. Both myself and Ucchi had been saying for a long time at that point, that it'd be better to have some final conclusion at the end.



UCHIDA: I was a bit wary of the idea at the start, too.

HASEMI: But what Yabuki-san explained his idea of an ending-less ending I started to think it just might work. That was when I started to think that maybe we didn't need to be so particular about the ending after all. If we did wrap everything up at the end, then it really would be over forever, and I mentioned to Yabuki-san that I didn't really want to have to end things right then and there. Once we decided that, we talked about ending in the same way we had for all the other pervy chapters we had made up to that point.

YABUKI: The one thing was—partly to have the threads of the story keep their logical progression—we wanted to have Rito ultimately come to the conclusion that he loves Haruna.

HASEMI: In the final chapter, we purposefully made sure not to touch on why Rito ultimately chooses Haruna. If we did, the story really would be over. So, we had Rito act like normal. That's why I had always wanted to have it end with Lala

misunderstanding the situation, much like in the first chapter of the series, rather than have a definite and final resolution with Rito declaring that he doesn't love Lala.

YABUKI: The idea of having the ending connect back to a similar situation to the first chapter made for a good conclusion to the series.

UCHIDA: The final panel with the big "Love You!" was really incredible.

HASEMI: Though, Mikado-sensei wasn't in the original script I wrote for that chapter. [Everyone laughs]

YABUKI: We wanted to please the fans of each character the best we could, but even without knowing when we'd find out our next chapter would be the last, we were going to end the story the same way we did. It just so happened that at the time, the characters were at the pool.

HASEMI: Using a pool setting meant we could show everyone, too. Also, at first, we had planned for Lala's mother to show up as well.

YABUKI: But if we had Lala's mother show up, she'd end up being the focus of the final chapter, and there'd be no opportunity to draw the rest of the main cast. Instead of ending things like that, we really wanted to show off the characters as much as we could with the left over time we had, so we ended up deciding not to have her show up.

HASEMI: Still, creating the final chapter really is a difficult task to undertake. No matter who Rito ends up with, each character still has their devoted fans, after all. That's why it was hard to have him choose someone in the end. Yabuki-san and I have spoken over the phone about this, but while there's the realistic explanation that, you know, it's not like he's deciding who he does and doesn't like for the rest of his life, we couldn't just trample over everyone's fantasies like that. Thinking about it, in the very last panel of the last chapter, I feel like there was a version that had a close-up angle picture of Mikan instead...

UCHIDA: There was, wasn't it? [UCHIDA laughs]

HASEMI: An immature ending, in more ways than one...



On making the individual volumes...

UCHIDA: Did you think about the revisions you were going to make for the standalone volumes of the manga from the beginning?

YABUKI: It was sort of a given to me that revisions would going to be necessary for the tankobon releases.

HASEMI: We had always sort of aimed for there to be a lot of revisions made to the tankobon.

YABUKI: We thought it was more fun if the individual volumes of the manga were different from the chapters that were printed in *Jump* every week.

UCHIDA: The sales numbers were incredible the first day volume one was up for sale, weren't they?

YABUKI: Ah, yes, that's what we were told.

HASEMI: It took us a whole six months just to get the first volume out of the door. That was probably part of it.



That gap was part of the reason for why there were so many revisions to be made for volume 1. I'd look at my old art style and want to fix everything that stuck out to me.

UCHIDA: Is your art style from three months ago already old in your mind?

YABUKI: It really is. For this series, I never stopped studying on how to better compose the art on the page.

UCHIDA: Now that you mention it, the design for Yui and some of the others really changed over time. These manga miracles are all thanks to you, Yabuki-san.

HASEMI: If I remember correctly, the first volume sold out even on amazon, and ended up on the top of their best seller list, too...

YABUKI: That's right. Every volume would top the charts when they went on sale, until we got into the latter half of the series.

HASEMI: One time it scored the top rank on TBS's Rank Kingdom. That made me a little happy, too.

YABUKI: We did get the top rank, didn't we?

When there weren't any other Jump comics to compete with, anyway. [Everyone laughs]

UCHIDA: We really courted Rank Kingdom. We showed them the tankobon and said, "Just look at how many revisions have been made for the first volume's release!"

YABUKI: They really showed a lot of the nipple shots and stuff on the show, didn't they?

UCHIDA: No one from the program came to check with us about that, you know. I would've at least wanted them to run that by us first! [UCHIDA laughs] The anime adaptation happened quickly, too. They announced the anime about a year after you had been serialized, isn't that right?

HASEMI: I heard that there were already talks about an anime during the New Year's Party the year following our serialization.

It happened very fast. I think it started airing somewhere after our first year had finished, or before our second year? We had released either six or seven volumes of the manga at that point. Wasn't that around when you became our editor, Ucchi?

UCHIDA: It was around October or November that year. We were working on the Drama CD at the time, so before the anime aired.

HASEMI: Wasn't it hard to jump right into working on an anime adaption?

UCHIDA: It was my first time being assigned to be in charge of a series since joining the company, so it was difficult, but the toughest part for me was all the revisions. [UCHIDA laughs] I actually think my second week as your editor was when I worked on the chapter where all the girls end up in the Yuki family's bathtub... (Appears in Vol. 9)

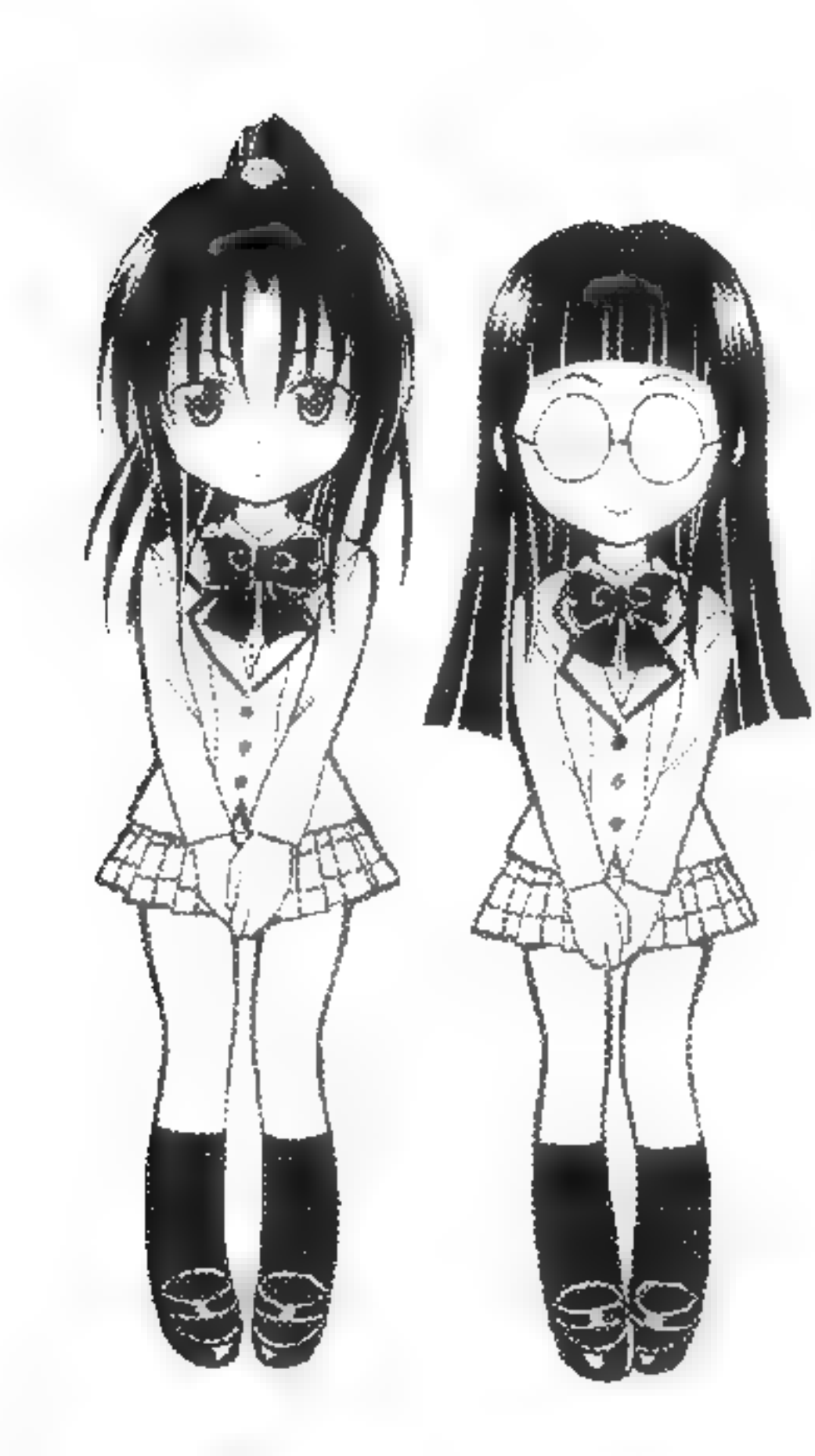
YABUKI: That one really was shocking. The bathtub chapter was probably our first time to really challenge the limits of what you could print in a shonen title.

HASEMI: We wanted to try to have a chapter where everyone was fully nude for the whole chapter. Unfortunately, that dream never came true. [HASEMI laughs]

UCHIDA: Of course it didn't! [UCHIDA scowls]

YABUKI: All the energy I put into that chapter ended up going to waste. Drawing the nudity in TLR saps more of my strength than any other kind of art in the series. That's why when I finish working on a chapter with a lot of erotic scenes in them, the exhaustion really stays with me for a while.

UCHIDA: So instead of having everyone be nude all the time, it's better to have some underwear shots, a few up-skirts, and then some occasional nudity, instead, right? [Everyone laughs]



The end of serialization...

HASEMI: The three years really went by in a flash. Yabuki-san said that for Black Cat, the four years passed by before he knew it, and now I feel like I've gotten a taste of what that feels like.

And for TLR, there was more besides just the manga, too. You had the anime adaption, the art books—all sorts of extra projects.

HASEMI: There were a lot of figures, too. Yabuki-san and I talked about this, but our goal was to have three years or more of serialization on top of an anime adaptation and a game adaptation.

YABUKI: That's right. We designed Lala and all the other girls with their eventual figure versions in mind, so we were able to have our dreams come true.

HASEMI: I'm sure part of it is because I come from an anime background, but I tried to make it a series that'd be easy to adapt to anime. Even if I hadn't it probably would have turned out that way in the end. That's why from the very beginning I was always confident that we'd be able to adapt the series into an anime.

YABUKI: I really do think that we did a good job to totally focus and specialize our manga on being pervy all the time, for the entirety of our serialization.

It's been a long serialization.

UCHIDA: Indeed it has. This is the eighteenth volume, after all.

YABUKI: Not only that, the content of the manga never once drifted from its original premise, right? It never turned into a serious action manga, and we were able to make the story fun, right up to the end. And in the final stages, even though I was having a

hard time privately, and felt like breaking down and crying, I was still able to punctuate the manga's final moments with the same stupid perversion that it had always had.

UCHIDA: That really was incredible. It made me realize how much of a professional you are. The whole editing department was really impressed, and admired you for that, Yabuki-san.

YABUKI: I wonder what would have happened back then if I was working on this series by myself. It's entirely because Hasemi-san and I worked as a pair, and were able to support each other when necessary, that we were able to avoid any hiatuses, and make sure the magic that made *To Love Ru* what it was stayed with the manga through to the end.

UCHIDA: I really think that was a huge advantage for the both of you. By the way, do either of you still have any desires to work on a rom-com manga?

YABUKI: No matter what genre the manga may be, I'd want to have the fundamental elements of girls and romantic comedy in the series. And now, I'm totally fine with the kinds of perverted scenes I used to be too embarrassed to draw. [YABUKI laughs]

HASEMI: Whether I like it or not, the only projects I get offered now are girl-focused perverted stuff...

UCHIDA: [Laughs] Now that you mention it, when I think of you Hasemi-san...

HASEMI: That's really the only type of work I'm getting offered now. [HASEMI laughs] It's strange, I'd really like to work on a plot-focused, serious manga, though...

UCHIDA: [UCHIDA Laughs] I guess you'll just have to use a different pen name, then.

HASEMI: Well, I don't know. I don't really mind people having that impression of me.

UCHIDA: Also, make sure you come to us at Jump with your next manga!



HASEMI: That's a good point. I wonder how much we can say about our next manga project right now... [HASEMI laughs]

YABUKI: If they'd let us to it, it'd be *To Love Ru 2*! [YABUKI laughs] The other probably candidate for me is the one-shot I did for the New Years' issue. I've really gotten attached to the main heroine, Yuka Amane. [YABUKI laughs] There's another girl in the story that I wasn't able to fit in the page limit I was given.

UCHIDA: That's true, and the reader surveys were pretty high on your one-shot. If you have the time, I'd love for you to start working on it as soon as you can.

YABUKI: The rom-com elements are my main focus, and I'm trying to rework and polish the characters and story setting. I need to get Hasemi-san's opinions on it, too. [YABUKI laughs] But for right now, I'm throwing all my energy into *Mayoi Neko*, and I have a little one to take care as well, so there's no telling what the future may hold, but... I'll give it everything I've got!

To the readers...

UCHIDA: Finally, could you say a few words to all the readers out there?

YABUKI: There's been quite a bit of a gap between the final chapter getting released in *Jump* and the publishing on this final volume. So I'm positive that all of you holding this volume in your hands are true *TLR* fans. I believe that it's through your devotion that this series was able to continue for so long, and I'd like to genuinely thank you all for that.

HASEMI: I write a comment to the readers at the end of each volume, so this is a bit difficult. Though one thing I can say is that, at the very least, I'd like to thank you for your long support of this series.

YABUKI: In some ways, from the author side of things, it doesn't really feel like it's over. [YABUKI laughs] There might be more anime on the horizon, and the world of the manga hasn't ended yet, either. Personally, I'd like to do a spinoff with Momo and Nana as the main characters. For one, it's a lot easier to work with pre-established characters.

UCHIDA: That's a good idea. How about you we serialize it in the leftover pages of the *TLR* and *Mayoi Neko* tankobon volumes?

YABUKI: That'd be disrespectful to both *TLR* fans and *Mayoi Neko* fans. [YABUKI laughs]

HASEMI: I'd like to thank our fans so much for all the support they've given the series! And say that I'll keep working hard, so I'll be counting on you going forward, too! Let's see. I'll definitely be able to use the important elements I've learned from *TLR* in my next works, so... I said this in my writer's foreword for this volume, but nothing would make me happier than hearing that you've kept the characters and world of this series dear to your heart long after finishing this volume.

HASEMI: I'm not sure what to say, but maybe the best way to end things is by saying that I hope for many more opportunities to see the breasts of Yabuki-san's characters.

UCHIDA: Come on now, can you just say *something* to all the fans reading this?

HASEMI: All right then, I'll be serious. I suppose I want to say that this isn't the absolute end for *To Love Ru*. If there truly comes an opportunity for it, I'd like bring it before your eyes again in the future. Yabuki-san and I are going to keep hard at work, so we ask for your continued support!

Feburary 2010, at Yabuki's place of residence.



Momo is the younger sister of Lala, the alien princess who has long since been engaged to the human Rito. Although Rito's heart continues to waver between Lala and his first crush, Haruna, Momo finds herself unable to deny the feelings she has for the hapless human male. Instead of giving up, Momo attempts to surround Rito with a harem of beautiful women, all working towards urging him to marry Lala, become crowned as King, and as a result, be allowed to marry his entire harem—Momo included!



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This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!

